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## DESPOTIC REFORMS.

If the latest news from Vienna be correct the Emperor of Austria has at last distinguished himself by an admirable stroke of policy, and also by a good action. We are told that his Majesty has restored to Hungary its ancient Constitution, while granting a new one to the rest of the empire. To the Hungarians he has given what they have so long been clamouring for, to the rest of his subjects he has conceded what they deserved. The Austrian Diet is to be composed of an Upper and a Lower House, which are not to be merely consultative assemblies, but are to possess the right of legislation; and, to however small a portion of the population electoral privileges may be restricted, the new Constitution for Austria must still be preferable to the old "Nobles' Institute" (to adopt the expression of one of the Bohemian deputies speaking in the Reichsrath) which was called a "Constitution" in Hungary. There has been more mystification about the "Hungarian question" than about any other of modern times. The Liberal party in England, or at least that discreditable portion of it which encourages revolution (with words only, it is true) wherever and under whatever circumstances it shows itself, believed readily enough in the pretended democratic character of the last Hungarian insurrection. But, somehow or other, the aristocratic leaders of that insurrection, before commencing a destructive war in the name of Liberty, had forgotten to liberate their serfs—a duty which was afterwards performed for them by the tyrannical Austrian Government. The word "Constitution" misled many well-meaning persons who were unaware that, by the ancient Constitution of Hungary, nobles alone had the right to vote. To be sure, there have always been plenty of nobles in Hungary when nobility descends from the father to all the children; and, as a general

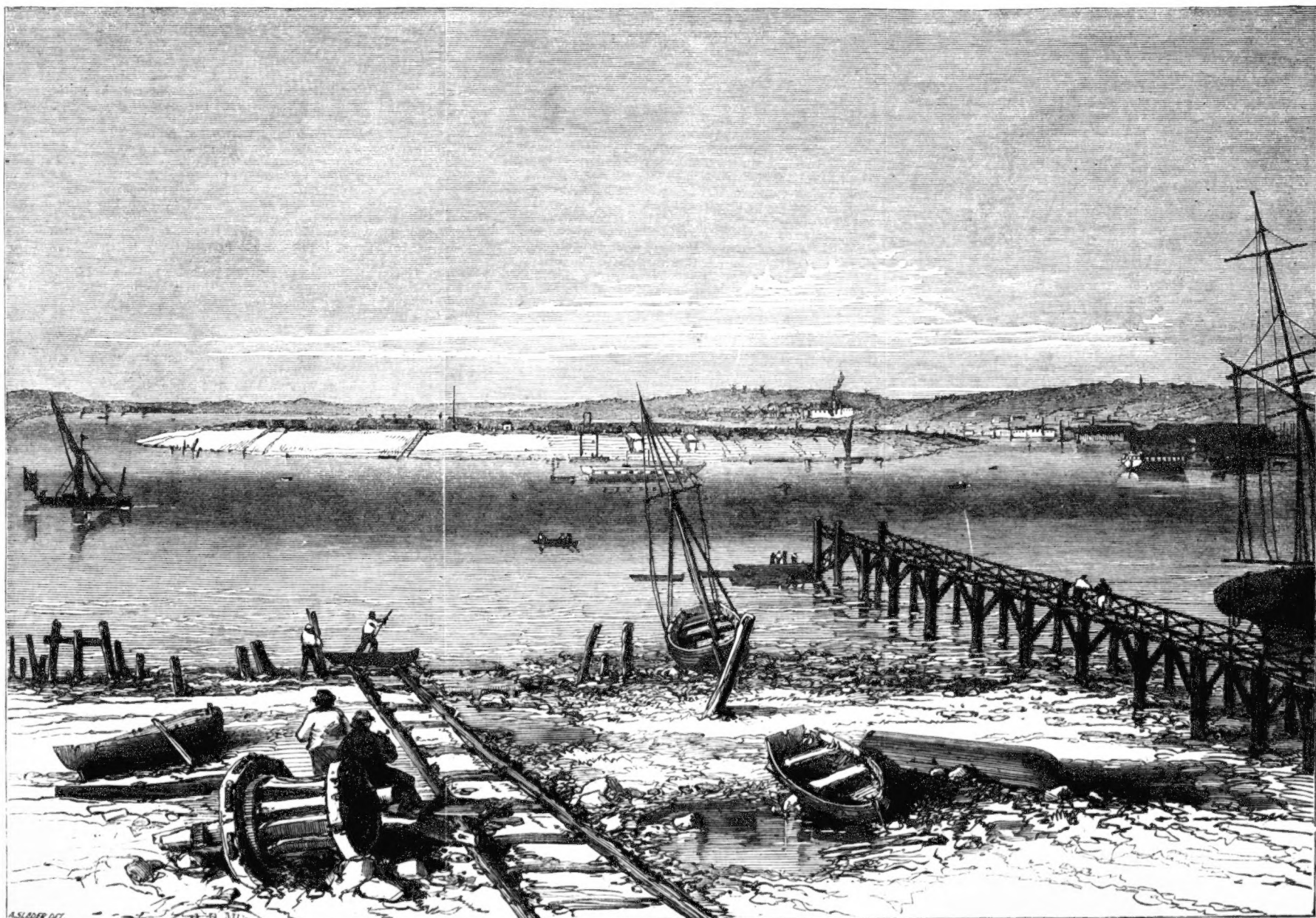
rule, it may be stated that privileges of nobility belonged to all the Maygars, the conquering race, and to none of the Slavonians, the original possessors of the soil. Grooms, ostlers, waiters of Maygar descent possessed electoral rights, and habitually sold their votes, or were compelled to give them, to the rich and powerful magnates of the land; while the Slavonians, who form the great bulk of the population, were excluded from all voice in the government of the country. In short, our Hungarian sympathisers mistook feudalism for democracy, and raved about the Hungarian Constitution, and the injustice of abrogating it, without taking the trouble to understand what it was that had been abrogated. Doubtless, the Austrian Crown had not kept its compact with Hungary; but it was, nevertheless, no credit to the Hungarian leaders that they should demand the re-establishment of their ancient most unjust representative system.

The Hungarian landowners pretend that, if sufficient time had been allowed them, they would themselves have liberated their serfs, who were kept in a state of abject slavery far worse than that of the peasants in Russia until 1848. Perhaps, too, if left to themselves, they might, during the last twelve years, have reformed their vaunted Constitution. At all events, they will have an opportunity of doing so now; and we hope that the new one granted by the Emperor to the great majority of his subjects will be of such a nature that the Hungarian patriots may be recommended to take it as a model.

It is difficult to say what effect the sudden transformation of Austria from a despotism to a constitutional monarchy will have upon the movements of the Hungarians attached to Garibaldi, and who are understood to have pledged themselves to raise the flag of insurrection in Hungary next month. It may be very annoying to the revolutionary mind; but how is

it possible to demand, arms in hand, even of an Austrian tyrant, that which the said tyrant has consented to give—indeed, has already given? Surely payment cancels debt, everywhere, and in transactions of every kind. The Hungarians wanted their ancient Constitution, and they have it. The other subjects of Austria desired a Constitution of a more liberal character, and that, also, has been conceded. If Garibaldi's Hungarian chiefs wish now to attack Austria simply with a view to create a diversion in favour of the Venetians, then they will have the opinion of Europe—hitherto in their favour—directly against them. The non-intervention doctrine, if it is to be observed at all, must be observed everywhere, and Hungary has now no more right to assist the Venetians against Austria than Prussia has to assist Austria against the Venetians.

While Austria is, as it were, liberating her upper and middle classes, Russia is on the point of emancipating her serfs. So, at least, it is said; though there is a chance that, after all, this important measure will be again postponed. The Emperor Alexander II. has had much to contend with, and Russians well informed on the subject declare that he is infirm of purpose, and at the last moment will hesitate. That, however, is not our opinion; and we believe, moreover, that, if any such postponement should be decided upon, now that the expectations of the serfs have been raised to the highest pitch, the consequence would be an insurrection of peasants, accompanied by all the horrors which must always attend a servile war. The day at present named for the emancipation is Feb. 18 (Russian style), or March 2 of our calendar. This is the anniversary of the death of Nicholas I. and of the accession of Alexander II. It is understood that the late Emperor recommended and enjoined the liberation on his deathbed, but that to the present Ruler will belong the honour of having carried it out.



ST. MARY'S ISLAND, THE SCENE OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE LATE CONVICT REVOLT.—SEE PAGE 134



## Foreign Intelligence.

## FRANCE.

The Committee of the Senate has adopted the project of address in reply to the opening speech of the Emperor. This address congratulates the Emperor upon his decree of the 24th of November, and upon his foreign policy. It then continues thus:—

In reference to the affairs of Italy, two interests which the Emperor wished to reconcile have clashed against each other. The liberty of Italy is in conflict with the Court of Rome. Your Majesty's Government has done everything to arrest this conflict, and all equitable ways have been opened. You have only hesitated before the employment of force.

The address pronounces itself in favour of non-intervention, and says:—

Italy should not agitate Europe by the exercise of her liberty, and should remember that the Catholic world has entrusted to her the head of the Church, the highest representative of moral force. But our most steadfast hope is in your tutelary hand and in your filial affection for the holy cause, which your Majesty will not confound with the cause of intrigues which assume its guise.

The Senate does not hesitate to give its most entire adhesion to all the acts of the Government.

As regards the future, we shall continue to place our confidence in the monarch who shelters the Papacy beneath the French flag, who has assisted it in all its trials, and has constituted himself the most vigilant and faithful sentinel of Rome and the Pontifical Government.

The discussion of the above project of address was fixed for Thursday last.

A project of address was read on Wednesday in the Corps Legislatif.

The address expresses the thanks of the Deputies on account of the Imperial decree of November, applauds the policy of the Government in the interior, and expresses hopes for the maintenance of peace. The address then continues:—

We hope that the humane mission which France has fulfilled in Syria will be maintained. We approve the policy which your Majesty has followed in Italy. The late diplomatic documents and the recent despatch of troops to Rome have given proofs of your constant efforts to insure the security of the Papacy, and have preserved its temporal power as much as the force of circumstances and the resistance of the Papal Government to wise counsels have allowed. In thus acting your Majesty has completely responded to the religious sentiments and the political traditions of France. As regards the future, the Corps Legislatif entirely relies on your Majesty's wisdom, being convinced that you will always be guided by the same principles and the same feelings, without allowing yourself to be discouraged by the injustice you have experienced, and which has distressed us.

The Corps Legislatif have come forward in favour of the purity of election, and given a proof of independence in annulling the election of M. Dabaux, a Government candidate. In the course of the debate some curious exposures were made of the corruption and trickery which can be exercised under the system of universal suffrage.

The Russian Ambassador at Paris has received orders from his Government to support the prolongation of the French occupation in Syria, and to offer no objection to increase the army by troops of the other great Powers. Russia and France are now generally in accord on all Eastern questions.

It is officially denied that a division of the King of Italy's army is about to join the French contingent at Rome, and hold that mixed sort of garrison there which Prussian troops, in conjunction with Austrian, keep up in the Federal fortresses along the Rhine.

The *Moniteur* of Thursday says:—"The Bishop of Poitiers has published a *manifeste* in the *Monde*, containing allusions offensive to the Government of the Emperor, and likely to arbitrarily disturb the conscience of the citizens. The *manifeste* has been submitted to the high jurisdiction of the Council of State, which is charged to decide in all cases of abuse."

## SPAIN.

The Spanish Government has received despatches from Mexico announcing that General Juarez had refused to recognise the Spanish Ambassador, M. Pacheco, and had expelled him from the country. In consequence, the Captain-General of Cuba was about to dispatch a fleet of five vessels to Vera Cruz; and the Madrid Government was shortly to communicate to the Cortes the measures they intended to adopt against Mexico, in order to vindicate the national honour.

## SWITZERLAND.

The treaty of commerce between France and Switzerland, proposed by Zurich, has met with some opposition in the Federal Council. A discussion, which lasted two days, took place on the subject, and the result was that the project was referred to the customs department for re-examination. It is stated that a protest against the treaty has been signed by 3000 citizens of Geneva, on the presumption that it would endanger the rights of Switzerland in reference to Northern Savoy.

## PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Chamber of Nobles, says the *Nord*, appears inflexible in its opposition to every reform proposed by the Government. A committee of that Chamber has just rejected, almost unanimously, the Marriage Bill, respecting which the Speech from the Throne had made such a pressing appeal for prudence and moderation. An amendment moved by one of its members in favour of civil marriage in certain urgent cases could not find favour in its sight.

## AUSTRIA.

The Emperor of Austria has signed a new Constitution. The representation of the empire will retain the name of Reichsrath. The Reichsrath will consist of two Chambers. The Upper House will be composed of hereditary members, and of other persons nominated for life. The Lower House will consist of 343 members, who will be elected by Provincial Diets. The Reichsrath will have right of legislation and of initiative. Its sittings will be public. A bill becomes law when it has passed both Houses and has been sanctioned by the Emperor. The Reichsrath is to fix the amount of the Budget, to legislate in all matters of taxation, to manage public loans and the national debt, to audit the state balance-sheet, and superintend the affairs of the bank. The restoration of the former Constitutions of Hungary, Croatia, Slavonia, and Transylvania within the limits of the diploma of the 20th of October, 1860, is decreed. For the other provinces liberal statutes, with representation of the interests of the people, will be given. To towns the representation will be at the rate of five per cent of the population. In rural districts it will be below five per cent. The Provincial Diets are to legislate for their respective provinces, to have autonomy, the right of initiative, and publicity. The Provincial Diets are to meet on the 6th, and the Reichsrath on the 29th of April.

The Comitatus of Agram has resolved upon requesting the Emperor to open the Diet in person, and to be crowned as King in this city. On the night of the 24th a disturbance took place in Pesth, on the occasion of the Jewish Purim festival. Two of the patrol and several civilians were wounded.

A report that a convention had been concluded between Austria, Russia, and Prussia, for acting in common in case an insurrection should break out in Poland or Hungary, is contradicted.

## RUSSIA.

The great measure of the emancipation of the serfs is the universal topic in Russia. To provide against agitation, and some disturbing manifestations, the Russian Government has taken serious measures at St. Petersburg, such as arming the winter palace and removing the arms of the arsenal to the fortress. It is added that there is an intention of encamping regiments in different quarters on the day of the promulgation of the decree of emancipation.

Russia has obtained fresh acquisitions in China. It appears by a telegram, dated Shanghai, Jan. 5, that China has ceded to her powerful neighbour the seaboard between the Rivers Amoor and Tumen.

The project of a new tariff of import duties upon European goods, prepared by Imperial direction, will be shortly promulgated in the *Bourse Gazette* of St. Petersburg.

Russia is understood to urge on England the dispatch of an efficient British force to co-operate with the French in keeping the peace round Lebanon.

On the 25th ult., the anniversary of the battle of Grochow between the Russians and Poles, a disturbance is reported to have taken place at Warsaw sufficiently serious to call for the interference of the police.

## TURKEY AND THE EAST.

Serious insurrection in Sutorina is announced. The insurgents were very numerous, and were receiving reinforcements from all parts. In fact, the insurgent forces were so imposing that Mehmed Pacha had retreated, not daring to attack them with the force at his disposal.

Servia complains of the conduct pursued by the Porte towards her. The Prince of Servia assembled the foreign Consuls at Belgrade on the 22nd, and made a statement for the purpose of showing the loyal and honourable manner in which he had acted towards the Turkish Government, and the suspicious spirit in which the Porte had behaved towards him.

A telegram from Constantinople of the 20th describes the financial embarrassments of the Government as daily increasing. Political troubles seem also foreshadowed in the announcement that Count Orloff was shortly expected on a special mission from St. Petersburg. It is reported that the Marquis de Lavalette will return home in May, and be succeeded by Marshal Niel.

## AMERICA.

The intelligence from New York exhibits the antagonistic parties as still in an expectant attitude, but hopes of a peaceful arrangement are becoming more and more faint. The Southern Congress had constituted a provisional Government, of which Mr. Jefferson Davis was to be President and Mr. Alex. H. Stevens Vice-President. The above Congress had taken up the question of the forts and arsenals, and until it issued a formal declaration no collision was expected to take place, unless commenced by the Federal Government. The latter had concentrated large reinforcements of men and supplies, ready to rush into Charleston harbour.

Charleston advices of the 12th contradict the positive assertions which have been recently made to the effect that Fort Sumter was to be attacked immediately, and captured at any cost.

Tennessee, through the voice of its representatives in Congress as well as by the action of its Legislature, had given expression to a strong union feeling. The Texas Convention had passed an ordinance in favour of the speedy formation of a Southern Confederacy. Of another State, also, there can be no doubt. The United States' Arsenal at Little Rock had been seized by the people of Arkansas, who are among the most fanatical anti-Abolitionists in the Republic. It is only a few months since this State banished all free coloured people from its territory, enacting that any found within its limits after a certain day should be reduced to slavery. The Virginia State Convention had met. The President made a Union speech, but declared that Virginia would remain in the Union only on condition that her rights were secured. It may be said, then, that the Slaveholding Confederation consists of eight States, commanding the Gulf of Mexico and the lower waters of the Mississippi.

The Constitution for the Provisional Government of the "Confederated States of America" has been published by the Convention held at Montgomery, Alabama. The Constitution of the "Confederated" is almost a transcript of that of the "United" States. Both Federations are to be ruled by a President elected for four years, and in both the rights of the several States are to be upheld by Senators elected, two for each State, without respect to population or extent of territory. Even the minor regulations of the "old country" are observed. For instance, the Vice-President of the Confederated States is to be President of the Senate, and Congress is to meet on the first Monday in December.

Mr. Lincoln had set out from his home in Illinois for Washington, where he will be inaugurated next week. On his journey he passed through Indianapolis, the capital of Indiana, where he made a speech which will, no doubt, cause intense excitement in the South, and perhaps precipitate events. After admitting that the marching of an army into South Carolina with hostile intent would be coercion, and an act of invasion, he said,—"But if the United States should merely hold and retake its own forts and other property, and collect the duties on foreign importations, or even withhold the mails from places where they were habitually violated, would any or all these things be 'invasion' or 'coercion'? If any one objects to such legitimate means of maintaining the Federal rights, his 'idea of preservation must be very thin and airy.' The President then, in the most decided manner, condemns the doctrine that any State has a right to secede from the Union, pointing out that a county may have in the old parts of the Union a greater number of inhabitants than a newly-settled State. "What mysterious right to play the tyrant is conferred on the district of country with its people by merely calling it a State?"

As if to support the incoming Administration, the House of Representatives at Washington has passed a bill authorising the suspension of postal relations in seceding States, and is discussing another giving the President power to declare any port where the collection of the revenue is forcibly resisted not to be a port of entry.

The Peace Conference was still sitting at Washington, but very little of its proceedings had transpired.

An outrage is said to have been committed upon a British subject at Savannah. The captain of an English vessel was tarred and feathered for allowing his coloured stevedore to sit down at the same table with him.

## INDIA.

The papers and advices brought by the Calcutta mail afford but little information. Mr. Laing landed at Calcutta on the 10th of January, and was well received. The suffering caused by the famine was increasing; relief funds were being formed in the various districts, to which both Europeans and natives were liberally contributing, and the citizens of Calcutta had held a meeting to organise a system of relief. The Government also was engaged in inquiries as to the best mode of meeting the emergency.

The first Prince of Travancore has called on his brother Princes to unite in subscribing for a throne of solid gold to be presented to her Majesty as the Sovereign of India. He himself offers to subscribe five hundred pounds.

A treaty has been concluded with the Nizam of Hyderabad which provides for the restoration of certain territory to him, and which cancels a debt of about half a million sterling due by him to the British Government.

## CHINA.

Some correspondence relative to the expedition which has been ordered to proceed up the Yang-Tse-Kiang was presented to the House of Lords on Monday night. Mr. Bruce admitted that, under the treaty of Tien-Tsin, he had no right to insist upon the immediate opening of the river; but he stated that, after consulting with Lord Elgin, he determined to write to Prince Kung, apprising him of the measures he considered it advisable to adopt. The Prince wrote so satisfactory a despatch in reply that Lord Elgin praises him for his "liberal spirit." His Highness agrees to all Mr. Bruce's requirements; but, at the same time, he gives him to understand that he cannot be held responsible for the safety of those who may go up the river. Han-Kau and Kin-Kiang are at once to

be opened to trade, and consular officers stationed there. The duties leviable under the new tariff are to be paid at Shanghai or Ching-Kiang-Fu. British vessels are to be allowed to carry arms sufficient for their defence; but any vessel trafficking in arms or ammunition, or carrying more than she is authorised to do, will be liable to have her cargo confiscated. Prince Kung stipulates that, in consequence of the payment of the duties at Shanghai, the revenue should be found to suffer, new arrangements of a mutually satisfactory character should be made. Lord Elgin expresses his anxiety to protect the inhabitants against foreign smugglers and filibusters, who are but too likely to pour into this or any other new channel of communication.

## AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

## THE ITALIAN KINGDOM.

The Senate of Turin adopted on Tuesday, by 129 votes against 2, the project of law which grants the title of "King of Italy" to Victor Emmanuel and his descendants.

The property of the religious orders which have been suspended at Naples has been taken into the possession of the Government. The suppression of the convents has given rise to disturbances here. The rioters attacked several convents. The National Guard interposed, and, in order to prevent their destruction by the people, quartered themselves in the convents.

Six hundred insurgents in the Abruzzi, having been surrounded by the Sardinians, laid down their arms and withdrew into the Pontifical territory.

The Sardinian Admiral Persano has arrived before Messina to summon the Commander to surrender. In case of refusal the Admiral will be joined by General Cialdini. There is a rumour that General Fayola has declared that, rather than surrender, he will blow up the fortress.

The text of the capitulation of Gaeta has been published. It is composed of twenty-three articles. The first stipulates that all the materials of war, including those of the marine, shall be consigned to the Sardinian army. From Art. 2 to Art. 6, inclusive, regulate the mode of departure of the troops of the garrison, with the honours of war; 7 arranges that the sick and wounded, with the hospital staff, may remain in the place; 8 and 9 establish that the Royal troops shall remain prisoners of war up to the surrender of the fortresses of Messina and Civitella del Ponto; 10, 11, and 12 regulate the amount of pay to be allowed to officers, subalterns, and soldiers, as well as the opportunity afforded for their admission, should they so elect, into the national army; 13 is occupied with the arrangements concerning foreign officers and soldiers in the garrison; 14 admits all the wounded and disabled, whatever their nationality, to the enjoyment of a pension, or of reception into the military hospitals; 15 recognises the right of retiring pensions to civil officers; 16, 17, and 18 arrange for the means of transporting the families of soldiers living in Gaeta, and accord pensions to the widows of soldiers killed during the siege; 19 and 20 engage for the protection of person and property to the inhabitants of Gaeta and the families of soldiers; 21, 22, and 23 regulate the mode of entrance of the Italian troops, and provide that if any mine should be allowed to remain charged, or any munitions of war be purposely destroyed, the actual offenders shall be given up to instant execution, or the capitulation declared void, and the garrison considered to have surrendered at discretion.

M. Casella, the Foreign Minister of Francis II., has addressed a circular to the various Courts, announcing the capitulation of Gaeta. He ascribes politically the fall of the fortress to the hostility of England, the resolution of the Emperor of the French to maintain the principle of non-intervention, and the inaction of the other Powers; and militarily to the superior artillery and means of the Piedmontese. He concludes by condemning the conduct of General Cialdini in refusing to suspend hostilities while the negotiations for surrender were pending, but omits to state the cause—viz., the breach on the King's part of the former truce.

## THE PAPAL STATES.

The National Committee of Rome appear to be undisguisedly bold in their undertakings. Letters from that city to the 20th, received at Marseilles, affirm that the National Committee have issued a proclamation announcing that Victor Emmanuel will soon be proclaimed King of Italy at the Capitol. This manifesto expresses at the same time significant thanks to France for the reserved attitude of her Government with regard to Rome. An order of the day of General Goyon censures the demonstrations of the National Committee, rejects the congratulations which the latter has extended to the French, and recommends the soldiers to avoid popular assemblies. The French authorities had taken possession of the keys of the Capitol, in order to prevent the ringing of the bells by the people.

General Goyon has presented his officers to Francis II. An order of the day of General Goyon has been declared to be a calumny on the Pontifical Government.

Fifteen Romans have been exiled, and have already left Roman territory.

The official *Giornale di Romana* declares that the Pontifical Government declines the responsibility of the present crisis which the pamphlet of M. de la Guernoniere throws upon it, and adds that that pamphlet is written with the same duplicity as the former French pamphlets on the Roman question. The article concludes thus:—

The allocution delivered by his Holiness in January, 1860, and the allocations of a more recent date, and also the despatch dated the 29th of February, 1860, addressed by Cardinal Antonelli to the Papal Nuncio at Paris, Monsignor Saccioni, have sufficiently proved with whom lies the responsibility of the late deplorable events.

## CHINA AND JAPAN.

The China papers confirm the news as to the health of the troops at Tien-Tsin. Admiral Jones had departed with four ships of war to Japan. In the latter country there is a strong feeling against foreigners, and, judging from a notification of Captain Vyse, the Consul at Kanagawa, it is caused by the indiscreet conduct of the latter and their contempt of the feelings and prejudices of the Japanese. Lord Elgin had left Hong-Kong for Canton, and was to visit Manila and Batavia before returning to England. The Chinese Government were honestly carrying out the provisions of the treaty.

M. PERSIGNY AND THE NEWSPAPER PRESS.—M. Veillot, the former editor of the *Univers*, having applied to his Excellency for the authorisation to start a journal, M. Persigny said in reply that he had no objection to grant it, provided M. Veillot would draw up a prospectus of his political feelings and of the line he meant to pursue. M. Veillot complied, drew up his programme, and forwarded it to the Minister of the Interior. He has received the following reply:—"Monsieur, I see with the deepest regret that in your appreciation of the acts and intentions of the Government of the Emperor you impute political parties which, under the cloak of religion, and regardless of the Pope's interest, endeavour to use his Holiness as an instrument of hostility against the empire. Instead of trying to reconcile the two ideas which the Emperor, both as a Sovereign issued from universal suffrage and as eldest son of the Church, is bound to respect, you profess to be unable to see in the Imperial Government anything but an anxious desire for the independence of Italy, in order to assume the part of an exclusive defender of the Papacy against the Prince whose army protects the Supreme Pontiff at Rome. The Emperor's Government could not, consistently with its respect for truth, or its regard for public interests, sanction efforts the only object of which is to create dangerous misunderstandings. Had it been your wish to devote your unquestionable talents to a work of conciliation I should not have hesitated to grant you the authorisation you have applied for; but it is the duty of the Government to prevent discussion on all subjects which could not but keep up in the public mind a sterile agitation and disturb consciences. These motives, which are the rule of my administration, do not permit me to reply as I would have wished to the request you have made."



## THE MIRE'S DIFFICULTY.

THE talk in Paris is still about the Mirès catastrophe. It is said that, finding his difficulties were insurmountable, M. Mirès endeavoured to obtain a friendly settlement of his affairs, and to avoid investigation into proceedings which could ill bear the light. His hope of success in this was mainly based on the number and importance of his transactions with eminent, or rather with well-known, persons. On finding, however, that his great friends would not, or could not, save him, he turned round on them, and threatened that, if he fell, he would not fall alone. Such a challenge, publicly uttered, produced, in all likelihood, the very opposite effect to that which the desperate adventurer anticipated. Those who might have wished to save him could interfere no longer when by so doing they would seem desirous to cover grave scandals. The Emperor, too, appears in this case to have thought and resolved for himself. The Legislature has received liberty of discussion, and the affairs of M. Mirès were likely to be, if not debated, at any rate alluded to in an unpleasant manner. Wishing, perhaps, to avert such an occurrence, the Emperor pressed the subject on the Minister of Justice, and the consequence was that the Minister, though personally inclined to delay proceedings, was obliged to take the step which has filled Paris with surprise and curiosity.

It is probable that the stories which are current as to the implication of distinguished persons in sundry evil practices may be false or much exaggerated. One correspondent states that of the persons said to have absconded some are certainly still residing in Paris. The sudden death of M. de Richemont, collector of taxes in Paris, and a member of the committee of superintendence of the "Caisse des Chemins de Fer," has naturally raised the excitement of the Parisians to the highest point. This gentleman is officially stated to have died of apoplexy, but, of course, the popular voice proclaims that he hastened his end in order to avoid arrest.

Late correspondence informs us that the drawing up of the balance-sheet is being conducted with the utmost secrecy, in order to screen the recipients of M. Mirès' "gifts," which in the last ten years, it is said, amounted to more than half a million sterling. It is the general opinion now that the Government, fearing to bring M. Mirès to trial, will, if possible, hush the matter up.

Some idea may be formed of the effect likely to be produced in Constantinople when the news of Mirès' arrest comes to be known there from the following extract of a letter, dated Feb. 13, received by the mail just arrived:—

The news that the Bank of France has refused to discount Constantinople drafts on the house of Mirès has produced a tremendous sensation. These drafts, mind, are made payable to the order of the Minister of the Interior, and are indorsed by him. As soon as this resolution of the bank was known at Galata, several leading bankers went to Ali Pacha to entreat him to find means to mitigate the existing embarrassment. Ali Pacha replied that he was aware of what had passed at Paris—that he would telegraph to the Ambassador there to do what he could to remove the difficulty. At the same time Ali Pacha solicited the favourable intervention of M. de la Vallette, the French Ambassador. "What can we do?" said Ali Pacha, in dismissing the bankers. "We will give you our blood, if you wish it; but as to money, we have none." Anxiety is at its height. We await with breathless impatience the despatches from Paris, which will decide the fate of Galata. Everybody here more or less paper-drawn upon Mirès. Only a few days since this paper was more inquired for than any other—it was the only paper, in fact, which inspired confidence. If the Bank of France persists in its refusal to discount it, three-fourths of the houses in Galata will be compelled to stop payment.

Last year Mirès' daughter made an aristocratic marriage, young Comte de Polignac having, nobly daring, affronted the Bourbonnais faubourg by what they held to be a *mésalliance* with a Hebrew maiden (the highest pedigree in the whole Legitimist peerage happens to be Duc de Lévis, who boasts of having sprung from a first cousin of the Virgin Mary). No substantial settlement was made on the event, yet the French gentleman has waited on De Germiny, of the Bank of France, official assignee, and offers to give up all his wife's jewels and whatever he holds in satisfaction of the creditors.

M. Mirès is of Jewish origin. He was born at Bordeaux in 1805, and was a simple broker (*courtier d'affaires*) there when the Revolution of 1815 broke out. He afterwards became in succession agent of the Gas Company of Arles; founder (with M. Millaud) of the Caisse des Chemins de Fer; contractor for the loan of the department of the Seine; *commanditaire* of the coal-pits of Portes and Senecas, and of the Company des Ports de Marseilles; director of the Roman railways; and recently contractor for the Ottoman Loan. Two journals of Paris, the *Constitutionnel* and the *Pays*, belong to him.

## M. DUPANLOUP'S ANSWER TO GUERRONIERE.

THE Bishop of New Orleans has sent his promised answer to the Guerroniere pamphlet to the press. It is in the form of a letter to Viscount de la Guerroniere, and begins as follows:—

I have read your new pamphlet, "La France, Rome, et l'Italie," and I am deeply grieved to see such a cause supported by you. I am more particularly sorry when I think, not of your talents and character, but of your functions. You are the director of the press, and you write with the permission, and consequently with the authorisation, of the Minister of the Interior. Hitherto the veil thrown over the anonymous pamphlets which preceded this one of yours reduced us to conjectures—melancholy conjectures, indeed; but we had no positive proof. Now we have the certainty that you are authorised by the Government—the Government thinks it right and proper that the Sovereign Pontiff, already so unfortunate, should be denounced to public opinion by a Councillor of State.

The Bishop then follows M. de la Guerroniere through his history of the Papacy during the last ten years, disputing every proposition as he goes along. He maintains that when the war against Austria was undertaken the Catholic party were duped by the Emperor's promise that he would respect the Pope's temporal power, and by repeated and emphatic assurances to that effect given by M. Baroche in the Corps Legislatif, in answer to the anxious inquiries of Catholic members. He names M. de Montalembert and M. de Falloux as the persons stigmatised by M. de la Guerroniere under the vague definition of the "Catholic party," and extols the services which they formerly rendered to the Emperor. He denies that the Pope ever refused reforms, and avers that the cry for reform in the Papal States was only a pretext for spoliation. He taunts the Duke de Grammont for the sneering way in which he speaks in his despatches of the "pious Bretons," who went to Rome to offer their services to the Pope, and gives it to be understood that it was entirely owing to the "Church party," now condemned and repudiated, that the Emperor was enabled to "pass triumphantly through the ranks of these same pious Bretons" on the occasion of a recent tour. His letter, which breathes the spirit of the church militant, concludes in the following terms:—

France, which beyond all doubt has hitherto shown more love for Piedmont than for the Pope, may yet defend the Pope. Will she do so? Tell us, Sir; tear the veil which covers your recent words, explain this indecent mystery, renounce these involved phrases and this unworthy equivocation. What! "Italy and the temporal Papacy have not yet found the conditions of their equilibrium," say you. Either these words are devoid of meaning or they infer I know not what impossible combination. The time has gone by when, as was proposed by the "Pape et la Congrès," the Holy Father was to be left with Rome and a garden. Piedmont now requires Rome for its Parliament and for Victor Emmanuel's residence. The Pope will have nothing left but his garden and his house. In other words, the temporal power will be abolished; the Pope and the Cardinals will receive a salary and be provided with a lodging. You do not propound this consequence, Sir, but everybody deduces it from what you have written. You know history, Monsieur le Vicomte. Charlemagne would not make the Pope his Chaplain—the Pope would not be Chaplain to the great Napoleon, and you suppose that a Pope is capable of being the Chaplain of Victor Emmanuel! The power which France made, which France restored, which centuries have respected—that independent See of the Pontiff of the human race which Paris would not owe to Vienna, nor Vienna to Madrid, nor Madrid to Munich—you propose to convert into a Piedmontese prebend! And then, because we consider this power, which you would abolish, as essential to the independence of our faith, you accuse us of confounding temporal things

with spiritual. We are party men, the Court of Rome is misguided and obstinate. You counsel an impossibility, and then you reproach Rome for repudiating your advice. Be sincere and logical, Sir. Follow out your arguments to their legitimate conclusion. One may have two policies, but not two conclusions. Now, you have two. Decide which you will adhere to. If you wish for the maintenance of the Pontifical sovereignty, frankly advise the Emperor's Government not to allow Piedmont to lay a finger upon it. If the abolition of that ancient power is your aim; if in these sad times, when public morality often receives such rude shocks, the most august representative of faith and Christian morality is to be sacrificed, say so; if that be your opinion, uphold it. But at a moment when your pamphlet may fill up the measure of the undesired misfortunes of the Pope, at a moment when it may encourage France to abandon the temporal power of the Holy See and encourage Piedmont to attack it—ah, at least do not lend words to insult the victim!

## THE BRITISH FLEET.

THE Secretary of the Admiralty has issued a succinct but impressive account of the actual strength of the Fleet at the present moment.

On the 1st of February, it appears, we possessed very nearly 700 ships of war. This is a tremendous array of vessels; and, though the figures receive some modification upon analysis, the conclusions still remain extraordinary. In the first place we must deduct mere sailing-ships, which, even though returned as "effective," are no longer deemed equal to the exigencies of modern warfare. The abatement, however, on this score is not to be serious. Ten ships of the line, 17 frigates, 18 sloops, and a few score of small craft constitute now the whole sailing navy of England, and leave an aggregate balance of 562 vessels, all fitted for propulsion by steam. Here, again, occurs a second discrimination. We must distinguish between screw and paddle vessels; but even this division does not much damage the results, for the screws are as four to one—115 paddles only against 447 screws. Finally, we must separate ships *in esse* from ships *in posse*, and ascertain the number of vessels actually afloat, apart from those which are only expected to be afloat by and by. Yet this drawback, also, can be very well sustained. Of the grand total of 562 steam-ships of war, upwards of 500—viz., 392 screw and 113 paddle—are afloat at this very moment, leaving only 57 in the hands of the builders.

All those, however, who remember the discussions of 1850 must be aware that in the comparison of our Navy with that of France two classes of ships, and two only, were regarded as of paramount importance. That we were superior in gun-boats and small vessels was perfectly understood, but it was urged that we were barely equal—if, indeed, we were not inferior—in ships of the line and frigates. It was thought we could hardly reach a total of 56 ships of the line afloat in the year 1861. That would give the maximum of our power, and it was thought probable, indeed, that we should not attain the mark till the year 1863. We now learn from Lord C. Paget's return that 53 screw line-of-battle ships were actually afloat on the 1st of last month, and, as 14 more were in process either of construction or conversion, we may expect before the year is over to see the maximum of our expectations fairly exceeded. Again, with regard to frigates, the famous report made under Lord Derby's Government showed that we had but 26 of these vessels—17 screw and 9 paddle—afloat, two receiving their engines, and none building. We have now, it appears, 31 screw-frigates afloat and 12 building, besides the 9 paddle-frigates still in service; so that we have fully 40 afloat, to be promptly reinforced from the dozen coming on. Of smaller vessels it will be unnecessary to speak, as our force in that respect was always considered satisfactory. The only other point to be mentioned is that the "block-ships" are not included in the above reckoning.

There is, however, another question to be considered, and a grave one too. For all we know at this moment our line-of-battle ships and frigates may be superseded as obsolete just at the minute we have contrived to "reconstruct" them. We may have to put all our fine wooden fleet into the "non-effective" column of our next return, and estimate our actual strength by the number of iron-sided afloat. Even if things should not come quite to such a pass, and distant service should still be performed by wooden vessels, we may find that for the line-of-battle and home defences we must rely in future upon iron alone. So we turn with some solicitude to this item of the account, and we find the facts as follows:—One "iron-cased ship" is returned as actually afloat, while six more are "building." Of these we may presume that three or more are less advanced, and three but recently laid down or bespoken.

This does not look like a very liberal provision, but the preparation is more considerable than it appears. Ships of this kind are so large and so costly that they will always be few in number compared with the fleets of former days. The old 100-gun ship was of about 3000 tons, and cost £100,000. The Duke of Wellington is nearly 4000 tons, and cost upwards of £170,000; but an iron-cased vessel carrying 100 guns would be of 10,000 tons burden, and cost three quarters of a million. It is obvious that fleets composed of such vessels may be powerful, but cannot be numerous. If we find ourselves at the close of this year with seven good and efficient iron-cased ships, we shall not have done badly, and we doubt if any other Power will be ahead of us.

CHURCH REFORM IN NAPLES.—By a decree of the present Government of Naples the two concordats are solemnly annulled and declared void. All persons of whatever creed are declared equal before the law, and ecclesiastics have no longer any peculiar exemption. All monastic orders for either sex cease to be recognised by the Government. The same fate has fallen on benefices of all kinds without cure of souls, and on all chapters of collegiate churches. The property of these religious houses is taken into the hands of the Government, and is to be charged, first, with popular education, next with the augmentation of the salaries of parish priests and with the relief of the most needy members of the clerical body. The fabrics are to be employed for school purposes, among which infant and evening schools are not forgotten. But, large and sweeping as is the change, the interests of the present inmates of those houses have been cared for. Those who wish to continue a monastic life are to receive a pension, which is to be augmented by one-sixth if they reside out of the cloister. No more novices are to be admitted.

THE CAIRO COURT-MARTIAL.—The revelations made at Calcutta by the court-martial which inquired into the "Cairo outrages" are destitute of interest. Four officers were tried, but the witnesses who were called forward were generally more in fault than the prisoners. One witness admitted having said "How d'ye do, old fellow!" as the Pacha passed him in the mosque, but in a very low tone of voice. The others implicated merely laughed and bowed in the mosque and overturned earthenware lamps in the street. The evidence failed to convict any of them of being intoxicated on the occasion. The sentence of the court-martial has not reached us. The singular story of Lieutenant R. C. Kennedy is one of the subjects on the tapis at present. This gentleman, when at Damascus, it is said, thought proper to dress, speak, and act, like a native of the place, chiefly, as he said, to perfect his knowledge of the Arabic. He gave out that his mother was a Mohammedan, and admitted having married a Mussulmanee in Damascus while he had a Mussulman wife living in Bombay. The gravest charge against him was that he spoke against the British Government, and wished well to the cause of the rebels. He has been dismissed from the army by order of the Secretary of State.

HANOVER IN A FIX.—The Court of Hanover is just now placed in a droll predicament. It bargained in the relinquishment of its perquisites out of the State tolls at the entrance of the Elbe, for a consideration in cash, apportioned on the various merchant navies of Europe, *pro rata*; and a portion of the last million of thalers was payable by Piedmont (for Genoese trade), Tuscany for Leghorn, and Naples for the Two Sicilies. The King of Italy now pays for all, but requires in each case a receipt in formal acknowledgment. His Majesty George V. is, therefore, in the dilemma of recognition, on the one hand of the Italian kingdom; or, on the other, of a round sum much needed by his small exchequer.

THE BERKELEY PEERAGE.—The House of Lords has given judgment in the Berkeley Peerage case, in which Admiral Sir Maurice Fitzhardinge Berkeley claimed to be declared Baron of Berkeley, and to sit as a Peer of Parliament by tenure, as holding the barony of Berkeley *per baroniam*. The Lord Chancellor delivered the judgment of the House in a very clear and elaborate speech, and concluded by declaring that the claimant had not made out his claim. Lords St. Leonards, Chelmsford, Wensleydale, and Kedesdale concurred in the judgment.

## SCOTLAND.

WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.—The liquidators of the Western Bank of Scotland have issued their report to the general meeting of shareholders. The report shows that the debts paid off during the year ending the 1st of February last amount to £117,160, and the total liabilities discharged during the three years of the liquidation are upwards of £6,000,000. In fact, the enormous debt which the bank owed to the public at the crash in November, 1857, is now reduced to the comparatively trifling sum of £58,000. The sum paid on calls amounts to a total close upon £2,000,000 sterling. The sacrifices made by the shareholders to discharge their liabilities to the public have been most honourable. The probable surplus of the Western Bank, subject to the future expenses of winding up, amounts to £187,000, being an increase of about £50,000 as compared with the previous year.

## THE PROVINCES.

ANOTHER COUNTY RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—On Saturday afternoon a public meeting was held at Maidstone to take steps for the formation of a county rifle association, after the manner of several others that have been organised. Judging from the spirit of interest manifested by the promoters of this movement, it is likely to be carried forward with some vigour. Viscount Sydney presided at the meeting, when a council was nominated, rules adopted, and a scheme agreed to for raising the necessary funds.

THE BOROUGH OF SUDBURY.—The Sudbury Town Council have prepared a petition to Parliament against the disfranchisement of the borough proposed by the bill of Sir G. Lewis. It is contended that Sudbury has been no worse than many of its electorally-corrupt neighbours which have still been permitted to retain the franchise. A statement has also been prepared to show the injury done to the trade and prosperity of the town by the disfranchisement which it is now proposed to make a "rule absolute."

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.—Last week a master butcher in Brigg, Lincolnshire, named John Palmer Sharp, jumped out of bed, and, seizing a knife, inflicted a rather deep wound in the side of his wife's neck. Fortunately she managed to escape from him before any further violence was done, and, getting in a neighbour's house, raised an alarm. On some of the neighbours entering the house they found that Sharp had made a gash in his own throat. It is expected that both will recover. Sharp has been twice married, and has once before made an attempt upon his own life. He has only been married to his present wife about two years.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM MEETING AT BRADFORD.—A meeting of working men was held in the Temperance Hall at Bradford, on Monday, for the twofold purpose of petitioning for Parliamentary Reform and founding a working men's association. A series of resolutions were adopted. The first condemned the Government for not standing or falling by a measure of complete Parliamentary Reform; the second declared that it was essential that the country should have a measure of Reform embracing an extension of the suffrage to all male persons occupying tenements ratable to the poor, with the ballot, the more equitable distribution of members to population and property, and shorter Parliaments; and the third ordered a petition based upon these resolutions to be presented to Parliament through Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P. Another resolution was subsequently passed establishing a working men's reform association, whose object is to be to seek a measure of Parliamentary Reform as indicated in the second resolution. The resolutions were all moved and seconded by working men.

INSOLVENCY OF A PRIVATE BANKER.—The recent death of Mr. Crosby, banker, Kirby Thore, Westmorland, has revealed a state of insolvency which will cause great misery in the district. Mr. Crosby died very suddenly at his residence on the 12th ult., and his executors found a great deficit in his accounts. It is stated that the liabilities amount to £81,000 and the assets to £39,000, leaving a deficiency of £42,000. The number of depositors was large. Many small farmers who had placed their money in the bank to be ready for their rent-day on the 25th of March will be almost ruined; others, who had taken farms, had their money accumulating in the bank, as they thought, to stock them; farm servants had deposited their savings in Mr. Crosby's hands, and have lost their all. The losses will be heavily felt in all the country side.

CAPTURE OF FIFTY THIEVES IN MANCHESTER.—A picked body of police paid an unexpected visit to several well-known haunts of thieves in Charter-street and Spier-street, Manchester, a few days since. The beerhouses in Charter-street and Spier-street are like the runs in rabbit warrens, easy to enter but difficult to thread. There are all sorts of odd-looking doors, rickety staircases, and projections outside windows, enabling thieves to "bolt" on intelligence of the enemy's approach. The men who had not been sharp enough to get off submitted very readily to the wishes of their captors, and walked away with them, chatting and laughing until their arrival at the police station. They were then searched. One man, who was very respectably attired, had in his possession three valuable diamonds wrapped up in a bit of dirty paper, a gold watch, and £40 in gold and notes. This "gentleman" was one of that very important class known as thieves' dealers, and had not arrived from London many hours before he was arrested. The property found upon the others consisted in the majority of cases of a few coppers, the indispensable "bacey-box" and pipe, and a good strong claspknife. Trade, notwithstanding the number of burglaries lately, was decidedly bad. All the men were known. Seventeen of them were returned convicts, and all of them were known to be either pickpockets, burglars, or gartners.

INTIMIDATION.—Henry Crocker, Edward Matthews, John Dift, and John Soar were charged, at Nottingham, on Saturday, with intimidating the workmen in the employ of Mr. Shaw, lace-manufacturer, of Radford. The prisoner Matthews was further charged with assaulting one of the workmen. It appeared that a strike had taken place at Mr. Shaw's factory, and that two of his workmen were surrounded by a mob on leaving the factory, and that Matthews threw a quantity of mud and other missiles into the face of one of them. The mob increased to the number of five hundred, following the men into the town, shouting and hooting and pelting them with stones. The police were there in plain clothes, and took the prisoners into custody. The evidence was conclusive, and the magistrates sentenced Matthews to three months' and the other prisoners to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

## QUEEN ISABELLA II.

## PROCEEDING TO THE SHRINE OF THE VIRGIN AT ATOCHA.

THE Sovereigns of Spain have always exhibited a remarkable devotion to our Lady of Atocha. Whether any happy event befel the Royal family, or some more than ordinary grief threatened them—whenever political or social occurrences seemed likely either to increase or to endanger national prosperity—in all times of thanksgiving or of petition—it has been customary for their Majesties to convoke a solemn meeting, and to form an almost national procession to the Virgin, who takes under her protection the members of the Royal house. This custom has been the occasion of rich and valuable offerings accumulating at the shrine of the Virgin of Atocha, which has increased in wealth in proportion to the number either of happy or deplorable events transpiring in the midst of the ruling house.

This year, however, the occasion has been of sufficient importance to add very materially to the sacred treasury. By the light of the thousand tapers which burnt over the altar might have been seen magnificent diamonds which sparkled on the white robe, flowered over with pearls, adorning the statue of the Virgin.

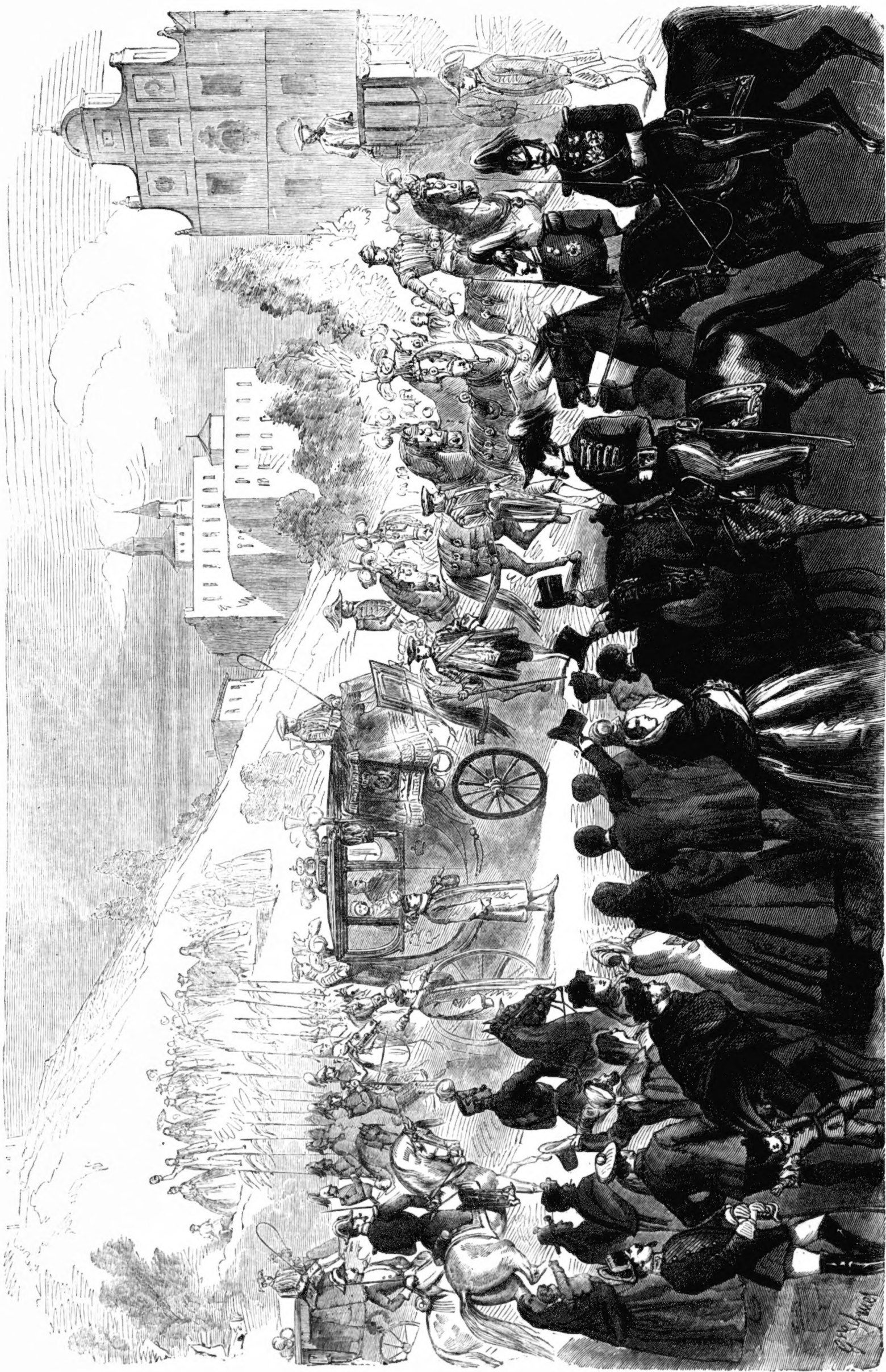
On each side of the altar were arranged the standards taken by the Spanish, those captured in the actions at sea left loose and flowing, their long folds sweeping to the feet of the sacred image itself, while the military colours were suspended from the arched roof.

Atocha itself possesses very few objects of interest in an artistic sense; the church belongs to a period when the architecture of the country was poor in character, and the cloister which precedes it has little of that magnificence which may be met with in similar buildings in other parts of the peninsula. Still everything in connection with the cathedral is full of historical memories, intimately connected with the events which have influenced the throne of Spain.

The ceremony which has lately called the Spanish Court to Atocha, and marked the present fête as one of such peculiar importance, has been the expected maternity of Isabella II., who, to express her thanks, proceeded to Atocha, attended by the whole Court and the members of the corps diplomatique. There was something about the ceremony, as there still is about a great many common events in Spain, which seems to link the past with the present in a strange and almost abrupt manner.

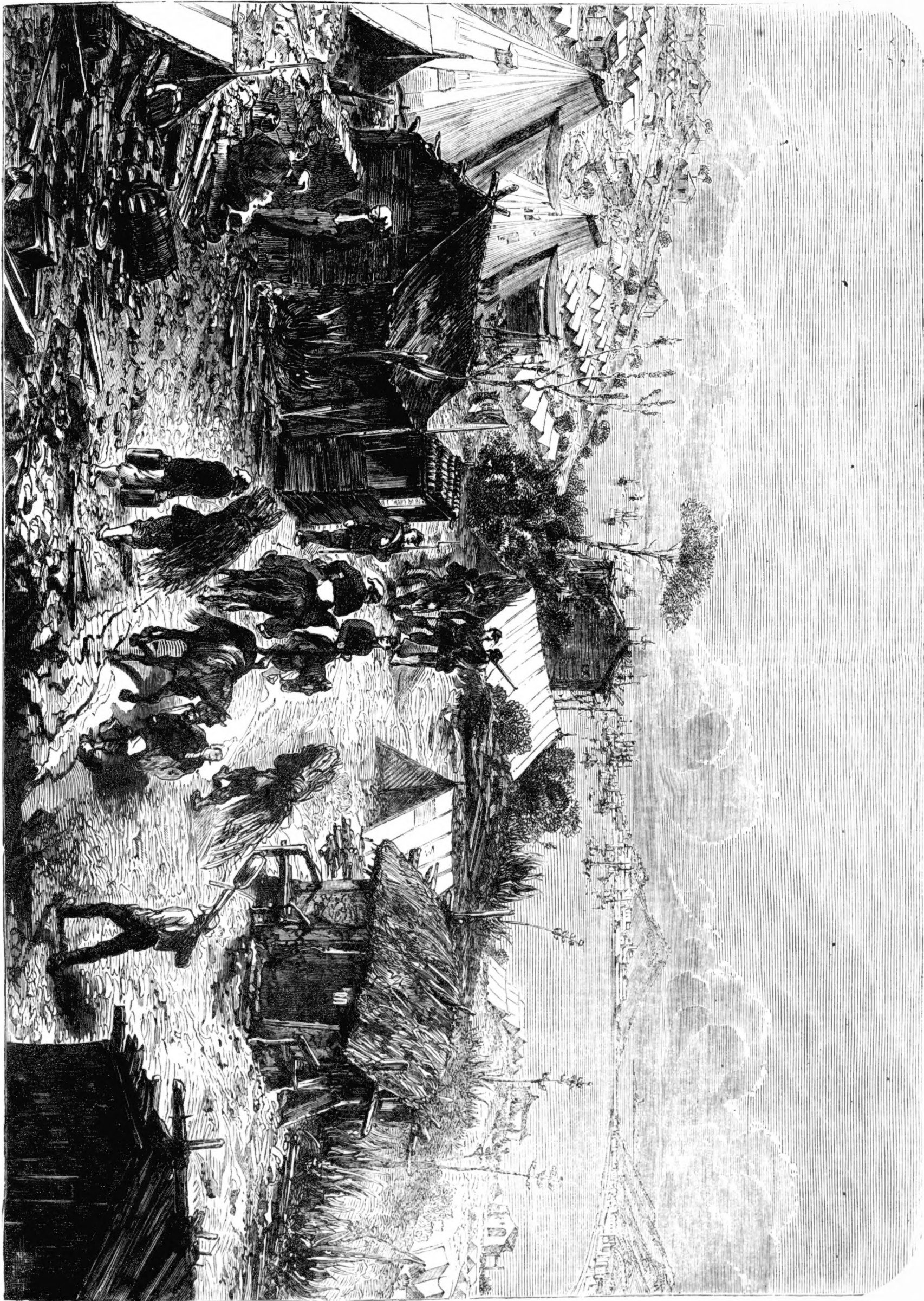
The whole affair was one of considerable magnificence. From early morning the peasantry from the surrounding country flock towards Atocha and up the grand avenue which leads to the church. Inside the sacred building the subdued light falls upon a strange and yet grand spectacle. The rich dresses of the cortège, the pictures and statues with which the church is adorned, and the dense masses of shadow, relieved here and there by upturned faces, compose a tout ensemble of the most striking character.





STATE VISIT OF THE QUEEN OF SPAIN TO THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF ATOCHA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY A. BAUMANN.)





THE PIEDMONTSE CAMP BEFORE GAETA.—(FROM A SKETCH TAKEN PREVIOUS TO THE CAPITULATION.)



## GAETA.

We give our readers another picture from the scene of the late conflict in Italy. 'Twas well it ended as it did. Had an assault been made, the carnage would have been horrible; though the success of the Piedmontese was almost assured. The explosion of the powder-magazine occurred a few metres above the battery called the "Duke of Calabria;" and, besides blowing into the air houses, casemates, and magazines, along a space of several hundreds of square metres, it made a rent in the curtain stretching from the battery of the Annunziata to the battery of the Porta di Terra. The rampart was all blown into the sea, and the surrounding ruins furnished the greatest possible convenience for an assault.

There would have been the difficulty of storming the fortress from the sea; but the breach was made precisely at the point where the Bourbonist batteries had been most injured, and where the three Sardinian batteries, playing from the Borgo, would have crossed in their range with those from the squadron, so that they could have given the greatest possible protection to troops at the moment of landing, and have succeeded in silencing the fire most likely to harass the besiegers.

It is positively affirmed that, taking into account the propitious combination of these circumstances, Cialdini and Persano had fixed the attack for the 15th ult. They relied on the valour of the Sardinian troops, on the discouragement of the Bourbonist garrison, but, above all, on the extent of the injury done to the most formidable batteries of the fortress, so that they entertained very little doubt of being able to obtain possession of Gaeta in a few hours.

The internal roads and paths of the fortress exhibit one unbroken series of ruins from the effects of the terrible bombardment. At the battery of the arsenal, where the parapets had been destroyed by the artillery, there had been hastily thrown up, by means of barrows and bags of earth, a barricade to protect the artillerymen. At the Favourite, the Annunziata, and the Duke of Calabria batteries nothing but dismantled cannon and parapets in ruins is to be seen.

# INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 149.

## THE HAPPY FAMILY—LORD PALMERSTON.

WE are going on very quietly in the House; and it is said that harmony is to be the order of the day through the whole of the Session. No faction fights, no attempts at a coup d'état; but sedulous, honest work at law mending and making. A quiet, harmonious, happy family, with no more bickerings and quarrels than will happen in the best-regulated households. So say the prophets, and the prophets seem to be very likely in this case, as in others, to fulfil their own prophecies. Lord Palmerston is very jolly and hilarious over this pleasant prospect, and evidently means to do everything that he can to realise it. His great trouble will, of course, be not the Whigs behind him, for they are as anxious for peace as he, nor the Conservatives before him, as it seems; for, though they are increased in numbers, they are hardly prepared for action yet; "the pear is not ripe yet," they say; but the uneasy Radicals on his right flank, the "mountain" party, those restless gentlemen who want, or profess to want, to go faster than events. Last week we had a specimen of the manner in which this restless body is to be treated by the noble Lord. They are not to be openly opposed. Mr. Locke King's bill was suffered to be brought in; and ditto Mr. Edward Baines's; and if a dozen more Reform Bills should be presented they would all be permitted to be launched by the noble Lord without let or hindrance. But the noble Lord could promise no aid from the Government to promote the further progress of these bills. "Last year we gave you a Reform Bill, but it was not received favourably—no, not even by our own friends; for, Acton-like, we were worried by our own dogs. This year we determined not to introduce another, nor to help amateur Reformers. No!"

We have had enough of action and of motions; we Rolled to starboard, rolled to larboard, when the surge was seething free;

and now you must 'let us alone,' and permit us to enjoy a quiet Session. We do not renounce Reform, but we cannot promise it yet. The time is inopportune. We will 'accept' a bill for Reform, but it must be at a long date." Such was the tenor, though not the words, of the noble Lord's speech; and never was his Lordship more happy, and jolly, and jocose than he was when he delivered himself of this policy on the question of Reform. His position was firm and erect. His voice was ringing and clear as ever; and occasionally his face was radiant with merriment as only Lord Palmerston can be; for when his Lordship laughs it is not his mouth only that indicates his merriment, but all his face lights up; indeed, the whole man seems to laugh from head to heel. And here let it be noted that when Palmerston means to make the House laugh he always laughs himself; and it is strictly according to oratorical rule that he should do so, for it is not written by Horace, as a direction to all public speakers—

Si vis me flere, dolendum est  
Primum ipsi tibi;

which, being interpreted, means, "If you wish me to weep you must weep yourself;" and, of course, the injunction applies with equal force to laughing as to weeping. Cicero says that Demosthenes, when asked what is the first, second, third qualification for an orator? replied, "Action, action, action;" but he did not mean by this simply action, in the English meaning of the word, but dramatic action. And no man knows how to enforce his eloquence by dramatic action better than Lord Palmerston. In short, if he is not the most eloquent, he is certainly one of our most accomplished, speakers.

## WAITING FOR EVENTS.

When Louis Napoleon was an exile in England he was accustomed to say "J'attends les événements"—I am waiting events; and this is the attitude of Disraeli and the Conservatives. They are waiting events. It is hard work, this waiting. To stand at the very door of the Cabinet—to know that we have almost strength enough to force our way in, but not quite—to see our foes in possession of the high places of Government, which ought to be, and, with just a little more strength, might be, in ours—to work night after night without emolument—to see busy Lords of the Treasury and Under-Secretaries, not to mention higher functionaries, whisk by us with despatch boxes in hand, and know that the worst of them have £1200 a year, whilst we have nothing—to look in, as it were, through the gates of heaven, and to see the glory thereof, and to know that there is no entrance for us, is surely hard lines. But it must be so at present. "So the powers rule, and we must acquiesce. In 1858 we seized the pear before it was ripe, and we know the result—a general election, the expenses of which sucked up all our official emoluments, and a defeat. No, we must not repeat this folly, but must quietly wait for events." And here comes one. "Well, what is the news from Pembroke? Is the Conservative in? No, by Jove! Sir Hugh Owen is returned by 86." "Hem! that's a sell. Spoofed! thought we were sure of Pembroke; but it is dock-yard influence, no doubt. Well, we got South Wiltshire and Aberdeen, and we shall have Cork." There was no small excitement in the House about Pembroke election. The Conservatives had made pretty sure of snatching this seat from the Government party, and, even after the receipt of the telegraphic message, they were very unwilling to believe that the seat was lost.

## DISRAELI.

Disraeli was never in better feather than he was last week when he spoke upon Locke King's bill. We could see whilst Lord Palmerston was speaking that he meant to have a say. Disraeli is never very demonstrative. No man in the world can better conceal

his feelings; but nature will out, and the twitching of his countenance, the twinkle of his eye, only perceptible to those who watched him closely, were sure indications that he was in conception, and would soon bring forth; and when he arose it was manifest that he was in one of his happiest moods. We are disposed to think that his speech on this occasion was more characteristic, more happy, than any that he has delivered for a long time. It was complete, graphic, satirical, without being bitter, and was delivered with masterly effect. The House was full when he arose, for it was before dinner, and there was a goodly array of peers under the gallery; and peers and commoners enjoyed the scene amazingly. Those who read Disraeli's speech in the morning papers must have seen that it was pointed and effective; but to appreciate Disraeli's speeches you must hear them, and be in a position to see as well as hear; for the Conservative leader, like Palmerston, though not nearly so demonstrative except when he is greatly excited, is a consummate actor. No man knows how to suit the action to the word better than he; and on this occasion he was specially dramatic—in the quiet way, for he appeared as if he were uttering a soliloquy rather than delivering a speech. But, as we have said, there was nothing bitter in his satire. Even Adam Black, when the speaker deprecated the repetition of the sufferings of the hon. member for Edinburgh, could afford to laugh; and the Liberals, who were depicted "with pallid faces which could not conceal their terror," and shaking in their shoes in the lobby at the idea of a six-pound franchise, could and did join heartily in the merriment.

## GLADSTONE'S BOTTLE.

Why does Gladstone continually apply that small bottle to his mouth whilst he is speaking? Some members drink water; others suck an orange; but Gladstone of late has always had a small squat bottle (something like a volatile-salt bottle) before him, which ever and anon he applies to his mouth. What is it that he uses so freely? and why does he need it? Well, for some year or two past he has been troubled with a disordered throat. Last Session it will be remembered that the relaxation or irritation crept down to the bronchia, prevented the delivery of the Budget at the appointed time, and threatened disastrous results; and this year this irritation, though now confined to the throat machinery, still annoys him, and this is some lubrication to make it work freely. It is what is called "a parson's throat" that troubles our Chancellor of the Exchequer—said to come from over-much speaking, but which, probably, arises rather from sedentary habits. And if Kingsley would take him in hand, make him hunt twice a week, and shoulder a gun, and tramp the moors once—in short, convert him to "muscular Christianity"—we venture to think that this demon would be exorcised and expelled without the help of the bottle.

## MR. SPURGEON'S HAT.

From Gladstone to Spurgeon. What a leap! Whether, however, it is upwards or downwards we decide not. Both are notable men. Gladstone rules over the finances of a great nation, is a magnificent orator, and enchains a senate when he speaks; Spurgeon can raise some £25,000, by the magic of his name, in a few months, and can fascinate a tabernacle. But which is the greater man let the Muse of History decide some hundred years hence, or perhaps fifty may do. We have our opinion, but keep it to ourselves, lest we should offend. Whilst Gladstone was inside the House Spurgeon was in the lobby. Our attention was called to him as a policeman, not knowing, perhaps, who the reverend gentleman was, was hustling him into his right place, out of the way of the members as they passed to and fro; and it occurred to us that we would sketch his appearance for our next week's "Inner Life;" but we suddenly remembered a canon lately promulgated that to sketch a man's likeness with pen and ink is "personal and offensive;" and so we forbore, and shall only sketch the reverend gentleman's hat. It seems you may photograph a man's face with the unflattering camera—indeed, he will get that done for you yourself; or you may take off his head with your pencil. But to tell in words how he looks, to describe the colour of his hair, his height, &c., is offensive. Well, be it so. But we may surely sketch a man's hat, may we not? We decide provisionally that we may. Mr. Spurgeon's hat, then, is a very singular one. The material was felt, the colour light drab. But here we must pause, and look for a simile before we can describe its shape. It was not of the usual form; neither was it a wide-awake, nor a pork-pie. How shall we depict it? We have it. Let our readers in imagination take a sugar-loaf, cut off two-thirds from the top, and place the remainder in a large oval dish, and they will have this singular hat exactly. "What a curious hat Mr. Spurgeon has on!" was a remark we heard. "It looks like an old Puritan steeple-hat cut down." "Puritan reduced," was the remark in reply. "Perhaps it is symbolical;" and perhaps it is, for has it not been written by our greatest living philosopher that "all things visible are emblems," including clothes? But how is it that an eccentric-looking man (it is surely not offensive to say that a man is eccentric) generally wears something odd in his dress? Mr. Spurgeon after a time went into the House. We caught a glimpse of him in the gallery, but he did not stop long; and no wonder, for great talkers are always bad listeners.

## THE PERSIAN AMBASSADOR AND SUITE.

But talk of hats! What do you think of these Persian gentlemen's hats? The Persian Ambassador and his suite shone conspicuously in the Ambassadors' gallery, over the clock fronting the Speaker. They were dressed in their imposing, natural costume—flowing silk robes of bright variegated colours, threaded with gold, and lacy sugar-loaf black beaver hats without brims. It was an interesting sight to see these representatives of the ancient empire of Persia looking down upon the English House of Commons. For 2000 years this empire has existed, but no thought of a representative Government ever entered into a Persian's head. From the time of Darius, or even the age of Zoroaster, the Government has always been despotic, and it is so still. Mirza Djafer Khan and his attendants did not stop long. They just looked round, and then departed; and this is not surprising, for probably they did not understand a word of the talk, or comprehend, in the least, what was going on.

## MR. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE.

We have often heard the remark that there are no rising men in the House to take the place of the old statesmen—Palmerston, Russell, &c., as they shall drop off. This remark, however, is not quite true. We have not many rising men, but we have some, and amongst them we should certainly place Mr. Chichester Fortescue, the member for Louth and Under-Secretary for the Colonies. Whether Mr. Fortescue will ever be a brilliant leader of the House may be doubted. He speaks clearly, concisely, and sensibly; but he does not at present aim at oratory, and possibly has no special talent in that direction; but that he will some day be an efficient head of one of the principal departments of the State we cannot for a moment doubt. At present he is only Under-Secretary for the Colonies, but he is sole representative of that department in the Commons, and it is shrewdly suspected that the Duke of Newcastle, the chief Secretary, can rely much more upon Mr. Fortescue than chiefs generally can upon their subalterns. Mr. Fortescue is not a son of the Earl Fortescue, as some suppose. His father was the late Lieutenant-Colonel Chichester Fortescue, of Dromiskin, in the county of Louth, whose eldest son was made Lord Clermont by Lord John Russell's Cabinet in 1852. The family, though, is a recognised branch of the old Fortescue tree, and bears the same arms and punning motto, "Fortescutum—salus ducum." Mr. Chichester Fortescue was born in 1823, and is therefore thirty-eight years old. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where he was first class in classics in 1844, and obtained the Chancellor's prize, in 1846, for the English essay. He was first returned to Parliament for the county of Louth in 1847. As Mr. Fortescue has been in the House over thirteen years, and

holds no higher post than that of an Under-Secretary, some have pronounced him a failure—"a splendid failure," the *Saturday Review* called him. But we are at a loss to know in what he has failed. He has only been in office about two years, and in the performance of his duties therein he has confessedly not failed; but he acquitted himself remarkably well. "But he ought to have made a greater impression upon the House, sir, and been at this time a chief secretary, sir." To all which may be replied, that there are many things necessary to rapid advancement upwards in the political world besides good, solid abilities; dexterity, cunning, and opportunity, for example, not to mention vulgar importunity, unscrupulousness, great interest, which not a few have found far more useful helps to climb the soaped poll than solid administrative capacity. Now, if we have read Mr. Fortescue aright, he has none of these "advantages;" and we can very well conceive that in the various struggles for office which have occurred since he came into Parliament he would be easily shoved to the wall by far inferior men to himself. Moreover, we should not be surprised to learn that, after all, politics are not quite the natural element of Mr. Fortescue. Of his private habits we know nothing, but from observation—from scanning his facial and frontal developments, from noting his retiring manners, &c.—we have insightfully arrived at the conclusion that he is of a reflective, thoughtful, philosophical turn of mind, and that if he were to consult his tastes rather than his sense of duty he would be in his study reading, and perhaps writing books on subjects far away from those to which he is now obliged to devote much of his time. And, if this be so, it is easy to see why he has not been foremost in the political race; for ambition is a very despotic and exacting master. In the struggle for place and power there must be no half-heartedness. The aspirant for fame and position must, like the Alpine climber, devote all the powers of his body and the faculties of his mind to the one object before him. It is in this way that most of our leading statesmen have risen to their positions. They have attended closely to the great game which they have been playing, and very little to anything else. Palmerston, within his circle, is a marvel for knowledge, but out of it he is probably not so well informed as thousands of men who are intellectually his inferiors. At all events, we know that, when he discoursed upon architecture two Sessions ago, he did not shine. Sir Richard Bethell, again, is reputed to be the greatest lawyer of the age; but what an exhibition of ignorance was that when he lectured before his constituents on the subject of religion and morals! Disraeli may be thought to be an exception, for he has not attended to politics exclusively, and yet has risen to the highest position; but on looking closer we should, perhaps, find that this is no exception. First, it may be questioned whether Disraeli is a statesman; and, again, there were extraordinary circumstances which aided the Conservative chief in his rise. Gladstone is an exception; but then he is confessedly a wonder. Still, all this notwithstanding, we have faith in Mr. Fortescue. Rapidly he has not risen; but that we shall see him rise still higher and do justice to himself in every position which he may take we cannot for a moment doubt.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22.  
HOUSE OF LORDS.

## THE TIPPERARY ARTILLERY MILITIA.

Lord DONOUGHMORE, in calling attention to the proposal for forming a brigade of Royal Artillery out of the Tipperary Regiment of Militia, stated that the suggestion that the officers in that regiment should hold commissions in the Royal Artillery had not emanated from him, but from the Secretary for War. While he regretted that the public promises of the Government had not been strictly performed, he made every allowance for the difficulties of the Secretary for War, and hoped that he would find it not too late even now to amend.

Lord HERBERT OF LEA said he did not think it would have been fair to create dissatisfaction among the officers in the Royal Artillery, who had obtained their commission by dint of hard study and the ordeal of a strict examination, by appointing officers who had undergone no such trial. He frankly owned that in this case he had made a blunder, but he preferred making that confession to injuring the public service by persistency in his mistake. In conclusion he eulogised the way in which the officers of the Tipperary Artillery had borne their disappointment, and observed that he had done his best to mitigate it by offering those who would accept them commissions in the Line.

The Duke of CAMBRIDGE felt it his duty to share all responsibility in the present matter with the Secretary of State for War, and explained on what grounds he had first come to the conclusion that it would be expedient to secure 600 or 700 trained men for the public service by giving commissions in the Royal Artillery to the officers. He had, however, changed his opinion, because he felt that a certain amount of injustice might be done, and not because the Royal Artillery had made complaints on the subject, as he regretted to say they had done.

## CHURCH RATES.

The Duke of Marlborough brought in a bill on church rates, which was read a first time.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR RIFLES.

Mr. BUXTON made inquiry respecting the recent order that rifles should be kept at the depôts and not by members of the corps.

Mr. T. G. Baring said the circular to which exception was taken was only reviving the original rule, which had been somewhat relaxed, and which was necessary to the due care and preservation of the arms issued to volunteers.

## HARBOURS OF REFUGE.

Lord PALMERSTON said, in answer to Mr. Liddell, that the Government were sensible of the national importance of the question of harbours of refuge; and there was a measure prepared which would tend towards a step in the direction of dealing with the subject, so far as the improvement of existing harbours was concerned.

## PACKET SERVICE.

Mr. BAXTER called attention to the state of the packet service between this country and North America, and urged the necessity of better provision for that purpose than was yet afforded by the Galway and Cunard Companies.

Lord Dunkellin and Mr. Gregory defended the Galway contract.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that no one had been made out to the Government to justify an interference with the Cunard Company. A very small sum of money had been paid to the Galway Company; but, as a sum had been voted by Parliament for the contract, it was thought proper to grant an extension of time to the company for its fulfilment—until the 26th of March; on condition that if they failed then the contract might be rescinded. Nothing had been contemplated with regard to an alteration of the present packet stations.

## MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

Mr. M. Milnes obtained leave to bring in a bill to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

## LOCAL TAXATION—THE IRISH POOR LAW.

Mr. Ayrton obtained a Select Committee to inquire into the local taxation and government of the metropolis, and the expediency of constituting it a county of itself, for the administration of justice and the better management of its affairs.

Mr. Cardwell obtained a Select Committee to inquire into the poor law for Ireland.

Mr. Tite obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Metropolis Local Management Act.

The University Elections Bill was read a second time.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## SYRIA.

Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, in moving for certain correspondence connected with the affairs of Syria, said he thought the time had arrived when the House should be informed as to the correspondence which had taken place in regard to the treaty of occupation, the action of the British Commissioner, and the general condition of Syria at the present moment.

Lord DONOUGHMORE is regretted that considerations of public duty precluded the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from presenting the papers on the affairs of Syria to the House. A conference of the Great Powers was sitting



on this subject at Paris, and it would obviously create great embarrassment to produce those papers while the discussion was pending. Refusing to discuss the general condition of Syria, he briefly described the energy which the Turkish Government had displayed in punishing delinquents and the restoring order; and remarked that, under the protection of the Turkish and French armies, the Christians had unhappily manifested a strong desire for blood, and in one instance had murdered 156 of the Druses, of whom 25 were women and 86 children.

After a few words from Lord Clanricarde, Lord Stradford de Redcliffe withdrew his motion. Their Lordships adjourned at an early hour.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### THE CHARGE AGAINST MR. LAING.

In reply to a question put by Mr. Vansittart, Sir C. Wood said his attention had been called to the charges made against Mr. Laing in the report of the Committee of Investigation appointed by the Great Western of Canada Railway Company, which had taken him entirely by surprise; that it would be his duty to inquire into the subject; and till he was in possession of the statement on the other side it would be exceedingly unfair to express any opinion upon it.

##### THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The House, having resolved itself into a Committee, resumed the consideration of the details of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, and clauses 118 to 197 were agreed to with very few amendments, the Chairman being then ordered to report progress.

##### THE VACANT SEATS IN PARLIAMENT.

On the order for the second reading of the Appropriation of Seats (Sudbury and St. Albans) Bill, Sir G. Lewis observed that, as the only principle of the bill was the filling up of four vacant seats, very little advantage could arise from discussing it at this stage; the details could be more fully discussed in the Committee.

Mr. BAXTER urged the claim of Scotland to an addition to its representation.

Mr. BENTINCK considered the proposal in the bill unjust, as the seats were not bestowed in the quarter where the claim was greatest. The real grievance was the inadequate share in the representation possessed by the rural districts, upon the principle that taxation and representation were convertible terms. He objected, moreover, to the proposal for increasing the number of metropolitan members, who were, he said, at present, in the aggregate, a great inconvenience.

Mr. CARNEGIE was of opinion that the measure did not go far enough—that it should have included other places which were notoriously corrupt. As to the distribution of the seats, he thought no place could show a greater claim than the Universities of Scotland.

Mr. PEACOCK suggested that the present opportunity should not be lost of giving a direct representation to the working classes by allowing them to return additional members for such large towns as Liverpool and Manchester.

Mr. LOCKE, after a vindication of the metropolitan members, replied to Mr. Bentinck, contending that, upon the very grounds he had assigned for the increase of the county representation, the metropolis was entitled to more members.

Mr. BLACKBURN argued in favour of an increase of the Scotch representation.

Lord ENFIELD, although he admitted the strong claim of the Scotch universities to representation, observed that there were important boroughs unrepresented in England which had a higher claim. He supported the bill.

Mr. C. BRUCE strongly advocated the claims of the Scotch universities, which, he said, possess a numerous, well-educated, and intellectual constituency, against whom nothing like a charge of corruption would ever be brought.

Colonel DUNNE said he should vote for the increase of the county representation on the grounds of valuation and population. He insisted that one of these seats should be given to Ireland.

After some observations by Mr. Jackson,

Mr. HOBMAN remarked that, besides the twenty metropolitan members, there were forty or fifty members connected with the metropolis—including bank directors, Aldermen of the City, bankers, merchants, and others—representing other places, who were nevertheless all available for the representation of metropolitan interests.

The discussion was continued by Lord J. Manners, Mr. Roupell, Lord William Graham, Mr. Collins, Mr. Scully, and Mr. Parker.

The bill was read a second time.

After some further business, the House adjourned at a quarter to twelve o'clock.

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

##### HOUSE OF LORDS.

###### PUBLIC MORALS.

The Bishop of OXFORD moved the second reading of the Houses of Ill-fame Bill, the object of which was to give greater facilities for the suppression of such places.

The LORD CHANCELLOR pointed out that the enactment of the bill involved a charge on the revenue, and that the Commons would reject it.

After a short conversation the bill was withdrawn.

The Bishop of OXFORD moved the second reading of the Protection of Female Children Bill, the object of which was to make misleading girls of thirteen a misdemeanour, as was now the case with regard to those between ten and twelve.

After some discussion, Earl GRANVILLE moved the rejection of the bill; and, on a division, it was lost by 48 to 27.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### PAY OF CAVALRY OFFICERS.

Mr. GRIFFITH moved that the House would consider an address to the Crown praying that directions should be given that the stoppage from the pay of cavalry and artillery officers for forage be discontinued.

Mr. T. G. BAKING said that the question had been under discussion between the War Office and the Treasury; but, with regard to the proposed motion, it was, in effect, a proposal to increase the pay of cavalry officers, a matter which should be well considered before it was decided to be necessary, especially as measures had been taken by the War Department to remove many of the obstacles to entering into the cavalry service which had for some little time existed.

Colonel DICKSON and Colonel DUNNE having urged the injustice of the stoppage from the officers' pay,

Mr. F. PEEL argued that the Treasury could not have been justified in fixing a sum of £20,000 a year on the public revenue unless it was shown that it was indispensable to obtaining officers for the cavalry, which was not now the case.

Mr. B. OSBORNE said that the proposition amounted only to the putting a charge of £20,000 on the public, which was now properly borne by the officers of cavalry.

On a division, the motion was lost by 213 to 56.

##### THE SLAVE TRADE.

Mr. CAVE moved that the means hitherto employed by this country for the suppression of the slave trade have failed to accomplish that object; that this failure has mainly arisen from our having endeavoured almost exclusively to prevent the supply of slaves, instead of to check the demand for them; that the true remedy is not to be found in countenancing immigration into those countries where slavery exists, but in augmenting the working population of those in which slavery has been abolished; that, therefore, while repressive measures should be continued and even rendered more effective, every possible encouragement and assistance should be given to the introduction of free immigrants, and especially of settlers from China, into the British West India colonies.

Lord J. RUSSELL said that the subject was well worthy the consideration of the House, and, if any member could suggest any means for diminishing the slave trade, time would be well spent in discussing it. We had not only abolished slavery in our own dominions, but had made continual efforts for the suppression of the slave trade elsewhere. Still there was no such moral opinion in the country on the subject of the slave trade and slave produce as would make diplomacy in that respect entirely effectual. The slave trade of Brazil had been diminished; although the melancholy fact of the traffic in Cuba remained, for, notwithstanding the sincerity of the Governor in his desire to put it down, the facilities and profits were so great that it was found impossible to do so. One obstacle to the efforts of our cruisers was, that many of the slavers carried the American flag, and when remonstrance was made the American authorities refused the right of search; and they would not employ their own cruisers in performing that duty. He (Lord J. Russell), however, would not refrain from pressing on the American Government the necessity of suppressing the slave trade, notwithstanding that the President had intimated to him that his Government had heard enough of it. He had proposed that there should be a joint squadron on the coast of Africa, but that had been declined by the United States. With regard to immigration of coolies into Cuba, it would be possible to regulate all the proceedings connected with their engagement and transit; but nothing could be done with respect to their treatment in Cuba. As to immigration to our own colonies, he was in favour of such a plan; but there were many difficulties in carrying it out. The Government, however, was fully alive to the advantages of such a system of free labour. He moved the previous question.

Mr. BUXTON stated that the slave trade had greatly revived; and sug-

gested that a system of armed protectorate on the shores of Africa might be adopted, which would strike at the root of the trade.

After some observations from Lord A. Churchill and Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. McMAHON suggested that a blow might be struck at the slave trade by our growing tobacco and sugar at home, and especially in Ireland.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE stated the readiness of the Government to promote immigration.

After some discussion, Lord PALMERSTON expressed his satisfaction at the subject having been brought forward; and, though he differed in the terms of the motion, there was no difference in principle between the Government and the mover. He wished it to be understood that the efforts of England to put down the slave trade had been long, exemplary, energetic, and successful; whereas an assertion of the motion implied that those efforts had failed. He contested an assertion which had been made that England had indirectly supported the slave trade; for England had by example and by treaty done everything in her power to suppress it; and in the case of Brazil had succeeded, while it had been diminished in Portugal, and had been put an end to by Holland, and it was almost entirely confined to Cuba, owing to the profligate and shameless bad faith of Spain, and the connivance of the United States. It was important that the House, by such expressions of opinion as had that night been exhibited, should strengthen the hands of the Government in dealing with other nations on the question.

The motion was then withdrawn.

##### THE TRANSPORT BUSINESS OF THE COUNTRY.

Mr. LINDSAY obtained a Select Committee to inquire into the organisation of those branches of the Admiralty, War Office, India Office, and Emigration Board, by which the business of transporting, by means of shipping, troops, convicts, emigrants, materials of war, stores, and other similar services, is now performed.

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

##### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

###### CHURCH RATES.

After the presentation of a host of petitions, some of them of a special character, against the total abolition of church rates, Sir J. TRELAHAWY moved the second reading of his Church-rates Abolition Bill. After some remarks upon the causes of the diminution of the majority in favour of the bill last Session, he argued against the justice and policy of the rate, throwing doubts upon the validity of its origin, and contended that the concessions made by its defenders had thrown overboard the principle that church rate was inseparable from property, and had reduced the question to one of expediency. As it was impossible to stand still, and to make the law more stringent might be inconvenient, and in large towns perhaps dangerous, as the palliatives which had been suggested would not heal but irritate the sore, the only effectual remedy which would settle the question before it went further was the passing of this bill.

The motion was seconded by Lord FERMOR.

Sir W. HEATHCOTE denied that concessions had been made in order to get rid of difficulties and animosities arising from church rates could be said to be a surrender of its principle. Sir J. Trelahawy had argued that the abolition of these rates would strengthen the Church of England; but many of his supporters regarded this bill but as a means to an end, and had avowed that it was considered as a step to the severance of Church and State. He did not desire that things should remain as they were; and, not deterred by the objection that he was departing from the principle, he was prepared to consent to exemptions from the rate, and two bills for that object were now before Parliament. He put it to the Government whether a time had not arrived most favourable to a conciliatory arrangement of this question, and he appealed to his own friends whether it was not their duty to consider, as practical men, what was calculated to restore and establish peace. He moved, as an amendment, that the second reading of the bill be deferred for six months.

Mr. PACE seconded the amendment.

Mr. MARSH thought there should be some little concession on both sides in this question. All great questions had been compromises, and the irritation which church rates kept up was damaging the interests of the Church of England.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that he remained of the opinion he had always held, and he should refuse to vote for the second reading of this bill. To get at the merits of the church-rate question, it must be divided into two questions, as respected two portions of the country. In populous parishes it might be in practice bad, and he would abandon the principle of the rate there; but in rural parishes, where the rate was paid with as much satisfaction as any other public charge, why was this ancient law to be abolished? Dissenters were, in the main, collected in the populous parishes; and the offer was made to them to exempt themselves from the rate if they pleased; but they did not please. If church rates were, in fact, the cause of providing the means of religious worship for the great majority of the poor, were they to be abolished for the sake of a minority who declared they had a grievance from which they would not accept exemption? He was not willing to intrust to mere speculative support the venerable fabric of the parish churches. He suggested that an arrangement might be made to accept the power of the majority of a parish to reject or agree to church rates as a right, at the same time allowing a parish also to tax itself by the will of the majority. If it was not possible to come to an agreement, he deeply regretted it; and he had no alternative but to record his vote as he had done before.

Mr. BRIGHT said that the proposition of Mr. Gladstone had all the faults of all the plans of compromise of this question; but it, in fact, amounted to what was now the law—namely, that where you could not get church rates, you were to let them alone, and where a majority was in favour of them, they were to prevail. He believed that, if the Established Church were dispossessed of church rates, tithes, and endowments, its professors would be as generous in its support as those of any unwendowed church. What the Dissenters felt in this question was that it was a struggle for supremacy, and not a question of twopenny in the pound—a supremacy on the part of a great establishment which was as much political as religious. The nonconformists argued that the Nonconformists viewed with astonishment and horror such practices as the appointment of Bishops by mere political functionaries, and the sale of livings in the Established Church. Adverting to the "Essays and Reviews," he urged that a thus divided Church ought not to impose an impost on a body of their fellow-countrymen equal to the ostensible members of that Church in numbers.

Mr. DISRAELI said that, if this bill was carried, its first effect would be to deprive parishes of the power of self-legislation, a step which ought not to be favoured by the professors of popular principles. The law as it stood was founded on the principle of affording facility for religious worship to the people of this country; but it was declared to be a grievance to the Dissenters. Now a Dissenter was not an alien, but an Englishman with all his feelings and rights, and it was his duty to yield to that majority to which it was a part of our constitutional system to defer, as it was his right to take advantage of that majority when he belonged to it. If the Dissenter had a grievance on this matter, had not every effort been made and measures brought forward to relieve him from that grievance by exempting him from the payment of church rates? He vindicated himself from the imputation of having made this a party question; and he was only influenced by a desire to rescind the resolution to which the House had come with regard to the abolition of church rates, which was necessary before any attempt could be made at an adequate adjustment of this question. Although Sir J. Trelahawy had repudiated any intention of damaging the Established Church, yet Mr. Bright had avowed that this measure was directed against the Church as an establishment.

Lord J. RUSSELL said the question was not one of abstract right, but of the advantage of the Church. He did not think that the exemption of Dissenters would be a settlement of this question. By assenting to that plan you parted with the principle of a national church; while the difficulty of carrying it into operation would be insuperable. He argued that it would be possible to keep up the fabric of the churches by voluntary contributions, and that if you took away £250,000 a year the churches would not fall into decay. Those who were attached to the Church would do well to allow this cause of difference between Churchmen and Dissenters to be removed. If that were done, no step against the Church would be taken for years; but if this bill were rejected the result would be a continued agitation, and that a Dissenting agitation—and he knew how powerful and well organised that was—which would continue till church rates were finally abolished.

Mr. WALPOLE criticised Lord J. Russell's speech as illogical and inconsistent, and urged that the Government ought to assist in clearing the ground for a settlement of this question, of which they ought to accept the responsibility, by the rejection of this bill, the object of which was an ulterior one—namely, that of applying the property of the Church to other purposes.

On a division the bill was carried by 281 to 266.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned.

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

##### HOUSE OF LORDS.

###### STATUTE REVISION BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of this bill, which was a step in the direction of that important proceeding, a revision of the statute law. The bill proposed to expurgate those statutes which had become obsolete, and to repeal such other clauses as were no longer practically in force. A copy of the bill had been sent round to all of the offices affected by the bill, and the officials were of opinion that the bill was such as would be attended with the most beneficial results.

After a brief discussion the bill was read a second time.

##### DISPLACEMENT OF LABOURERS.

The Earl of DERRY presented a petition respecting the displacement of labourers in consequence of great public works in the metropolis. The petition was from the clergyman of St. Bartholomew's, Moorfields, Cripplegate, and appealed for protection on behalf of poor people who could not protect themselves. The parish of St. Bartholomew consisted of about five hundred houses, in which poor people lived; and, in consequence of a railway proposed to be brought from Kingsland to Finsbury, the inhabitants of at least half of those houses had received notice to quit, that they might be pulled down, and not the slightest provision had been made for their reception elsewhere. He suggested, as a prudent step, that their Lordships should appoint a Committee to inquire into their grievances.

Earl GRANVILLE thought a Committee would not answer the end the noble Lord had in view; besides it would be unfair to the promoters of the bills now in progress, who had brought them forward at considerable expense, if they were to be delayed until the result of a general Committee should be known.

After a long discussion the subject dropped, and their Lordships adjourned.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### THE HARVEST.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. CAIRD called the attention of the House to the serious deficiency of the last harvest, and urged upon hon. members the consequent necessity for increased economy in the public expenditure.

##### THE CRUELITIES IN SYRIA.

Mr. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD drew the attention of the House to the notes that had been circulated by the Russian Government through Prince Gortschakoff in reference to the inquiries in Syria, and said that those notes were calculated to greatly damage the interests and independence of Turkey, unless England, by a firm and determined policy, counteracted their mischievous tendency.

Sir J. FERGUSON, at great length, reviewed the whole of the disturbances that had taken place in Syria, and charged the commission which had been appointed to inquire into the massacres with committing the grossest injustice towards the prisoners they had to try.

Mr. LAYARD bore his testimony to the conciliatory conduct of the Druses, and entirely deprecated the armed interference of the French.

Lord J. RUSSELL admitted that many of the evils complained of were attendant upon a foreign occupation, but believed that a joint one would have been fraught with much greater annoyance, not only to the country, but to the two armies who were engaged in the duty. The object for which the troops had been sent there had been achieved, and he agreed with the House that the evacuation ought now to take place. England must, however, act in concert with other great Powers, particularly Austria, who was sincerely desirous of maintaining the independence of Turkey. He would use his best endeavours to obtain the evacuation of Syria by the French troops.

##### MISMANAGEMENT OF NAVAL ADMINISTRATION.

Sir J. ELPHINSTONE moved a series of resolutions condemnatory of the present Board of Admiralty and the whole administration of naval affairs as at present existing, and proposing a new scheme by which the alleged insufficiency in the Admiralty Department would be rectified.

Mr. H. BAILEY seconded the motion, which, after considerable discussion, was withdrawn.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, which occupied the remainder of the evening.

#### THE HAYTER TESTIMONIAL BANQUET.

The testimonial subscribed for by the Liberal members and ex-members of the House of Commons on the retirement of Sir W. G. Hayter, M.P., from his post of Political Secretary to the Treasury, was presented to him, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, on Wednesday evening. The event was celebrated by a magnificent banquet. Covers were laid for 150; but considerably more than that number were present.

The testimonial, designed by Messrs. Smith and Nicholson, of Duke-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields, consists of a very massive table ornament, surmounted by a large group of five emblematic figures. The design is in the pure Louis XIV. period, enriched with foliated scrolls and flowers. The shape is quadrangular, and upon each angle of the base is supported a vase for flowers and fruits. The figure represents Britannia in the centre with the lion, and at the four angles of the plinth Fidelity, Justice, Industry, and Loyalty. Weight, 1100 ounces. The inscription is as follows:—

This testimonial was presented, on the 27th day of February, 1861, to the Right Hon. William Goodenough Hayter, Bart., M.P., by Viscount Palmerston, M.P., on behalf of 365 members of the House of Commons, in remembrance of the courtesy, fairness, and efficiency with which he performed the duties of Political Secretary to the Treasury between the years 1850 and 1859.

Lord Palmerston presided, and in proposing Sir W. Hayter's health spoke in warm praise of his industry, loyalty, and intelligence. He said:—

I feel peculiar gratification in having been permitted to propose this toast, because it has been my lot for many years to be in constant daily communication with Sir William Hayter upon every possible matter concerning the business of the Government, both in and out of the House. I can say with satisfaction that I am glad to have an opportunity of stating that I have found him a most useful and faithful adviser, with knowledge upon every subject upon which it has been necessary to consult him; in fact, a perfect encyclopedia of information connected with the administration of affairs in every part of the country. His advice was sound and to be relied on, and his information most accurate.

Sir W. Hayter duly responded to the honour paid him.

MR. COBDEN.—Mr. Cobden is to be fêted at Bradford. The good folks of Bradford intended to invite Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Milner Gibson, and Mr. Cobden to a banquet to celebrate the French Treaty. "Official etiquette" prevented the two Cabinet Ministers from accepting the invitation. To Mr. Cobden, their volunteer colleague, was due, they said, the civic crown offered by Bradford. Accordingly, Mr. Cobden is to be the principal guest, and the members of the French Commission are to be invited to meet him.

MURDER IN WELLS-STREET, OXFORD-STREET.—Sarah Schofield, a hard-working, industrious woman, lived on very unhappy terms with her husband, J. Schofield. A quarrel arose a few days since, when he beat her over the head with a fire-shovel in so unmerciful a manner that she was conveyed to St. George's Hospital, where she gradually sank and expired.

ESSAYS AND REVIEWS.—Both Houses of Convocation met on Tuesday. The great question brought before the Lower House was the famous Oxford Essays, which were severely animadverted upon. Serious doubts were expressed as to whether Convocation had the power to deal with the matter judicially; and a resolution simply condemning the Essays, but without suggesting any line of action to be adopted with regard to them, was agreed to. On Wednesday a deputation from the Lower House waited upon the Upper House with a copy of the resolution censuring the "Essays and Reviews," which was adopted on the previous day. The Archbishop of Canterbury intimated that their Lordships would take the subject into their consideration.

UNEXPECTED LEGACIES.—Before the late Mr. Johnson, of the Cyclops Works, Sheffield, died, some years ago, he expressed a wish that a sum of money should be distributed among his workpeople, but did not add any provision to his will, which had been made some years. The executors, one of whom was his brother, were not legally required to pay this money, but determined that it should be paid. After some time they obtained from the Court of Chancery the necessary authorisation, and on Thursday week the workpeople, numbering one hundred and thirty, were convened, and received sums varying from £2 to £100, according to the length of service, &c., the total amount distributed being about £3000.

BRITISH SUBJECTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—Some correspondence between Lord Lyons and Judge Black, the Secretary of the United States, respecting the suspension of the Federal Custom House at the port of Charleston, has been published. The fact that masters of vessels and foreign Consuls were liable to heavy fines for non-compliance with Federal regulations—obligations which the revolutionary acts of South Carolina prevented them from fulfilling—rendered it desirable that Lord Lyons should know precisely what degree of responsibility British subjects would assume by conforming to the new order of things, and what were the wishes and intentions of the American Government. Judge Black, in his reply, while asserting in general terms the Federal authority, confessed his inability to furnish specific information.

FATE OF A FEMALE GAMBLER.—A letter from Frankfort of the 19th ult. says:—"The day before yesterday an English lady, who had resided at Homburg for some time, and had been a constant visitor to the gambling saloons, where by degrees she had lost almost all her property, left the town and went to the village of Kirdorf, about three miles distant. She ascended the tower of the new church there, and, having first tied her legs together, threw herself from the tower to the earth, a distance of about 100 feet. When picked up she was still living, but was conveyed to the hospital at Homburg in an exceedingly deplorable condition."

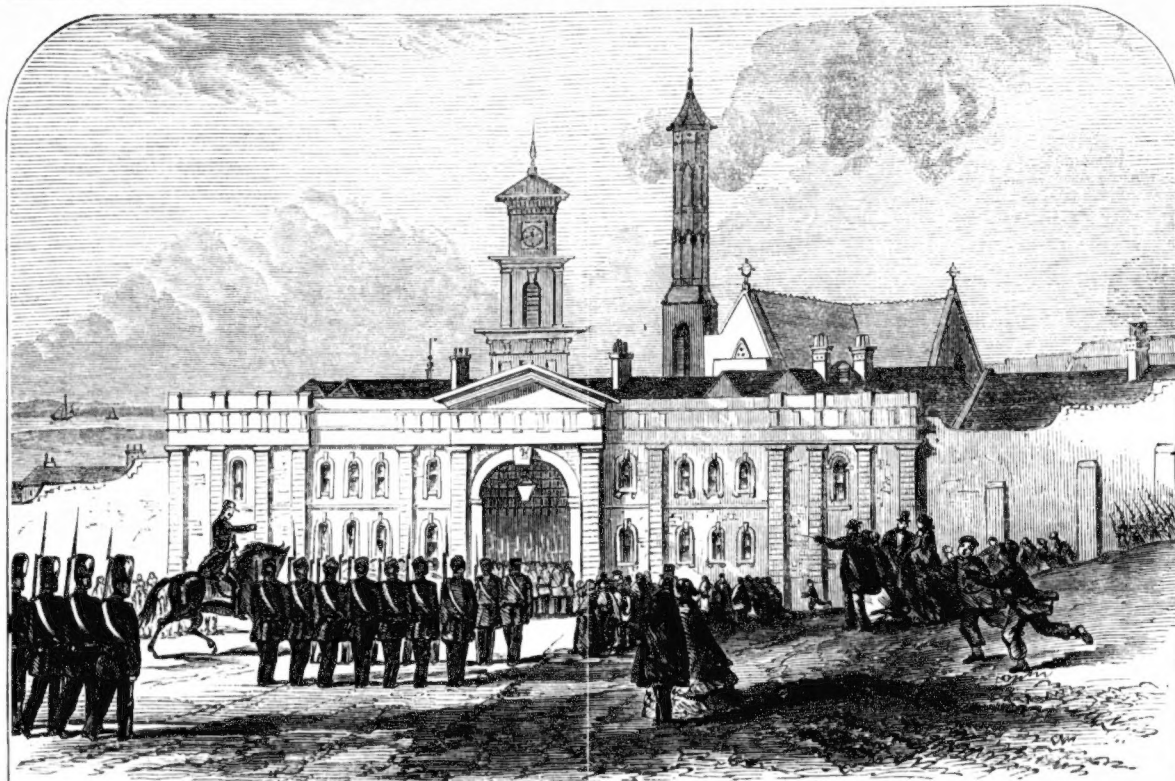


### THE CONVICT REVOLT AT CHATHAM.

The recent outbreak amongst the convicts at Chatham will, doubtless, have some immediate effect in calling the attention of the Legislature to our present policy as regards the disposition of criminals. We have obviously been subject to a danger which might have been less easily surmounted; and, had the decision and promptitude of the convicts been equal to their fierce determination and unyielding hostility to the authorities, there would probably have been no other means of restoring order than by sacrificing the lives of the men who attempted to escape.

On that dreary piece of swamp of land called St. Mary's Island, where an extent of about 250 acres seems to produce little but dank, frowsy specimens of vegetation, rooted in the slimy mud and chalk which everywhere intersect the stagnant pools, employment was found for above 300 convicts, who are separated from the dockyard by the creek, over which the visitor has to be ferried. The labour consists of the construction of a river wall of solid masonry around the island, for the purpose of improving the navigation of the River Medway, while it is ultimately proposed to extend the dockyard by building some large basins in connection with it.

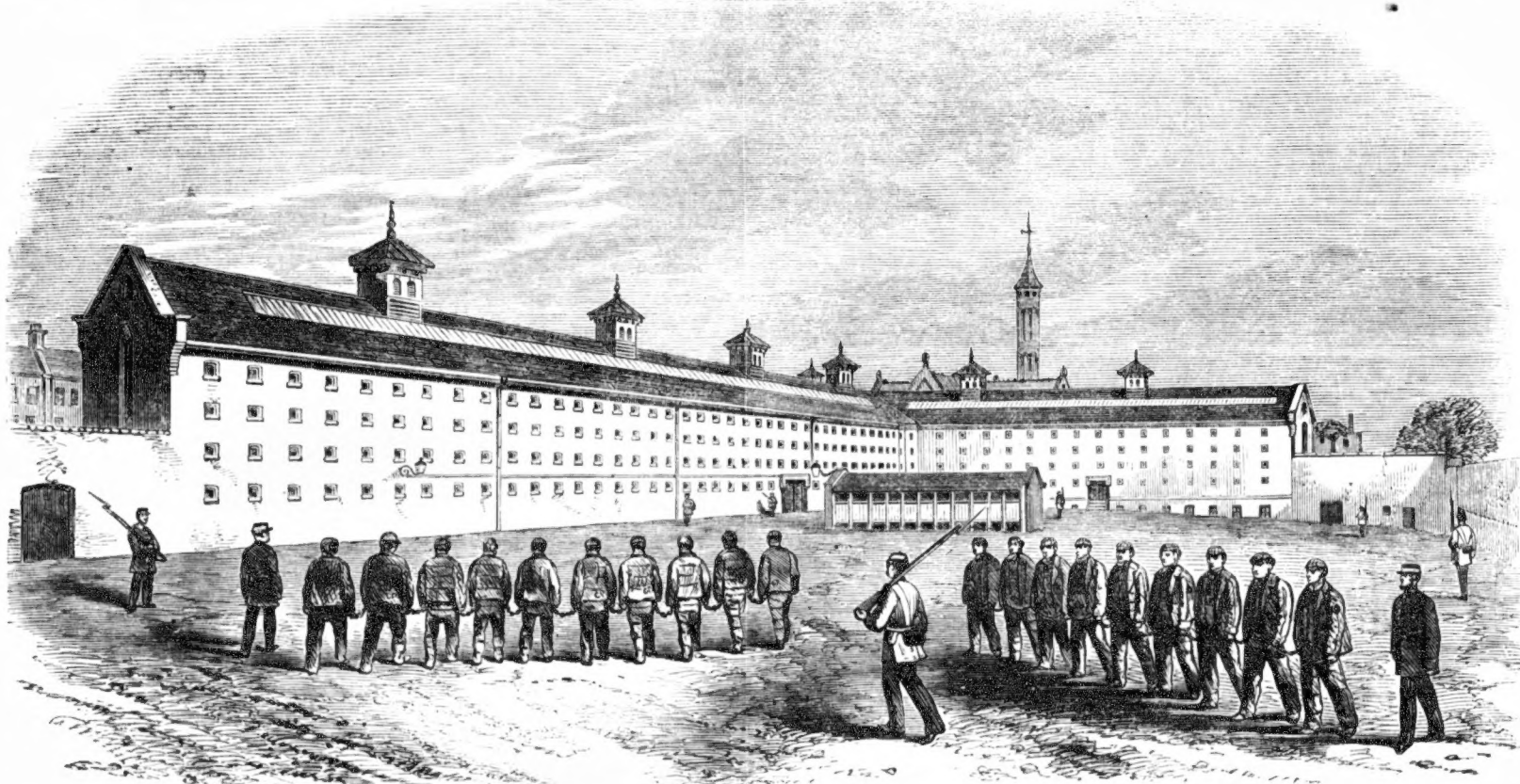
It was on the 8th of February that the revolt first manifested



THE CONVICT PRISON AT CHATHAM.

itself, and on that day about 350 prisoners were collected on the island and proceeded to exhibit certain tokens of discontent, although they passed unnoticed until they were marched to dinner in the messhouse at one o'clock, when some of them became openly violent. In the large room of the messhouse, which is intended for dining about 150 men, the riot increased so greatly that the officers became seriously alarmed, and at once locked the doors upon the convicts in that part of the building, allowing those who were in the smaller apartment to go out on the bank of the river. This was a signal for general revolt, and, while the party who were locked up inside commenced yelling, hooting, and smashing every article of furniture in the place, those who had collected on the island filled their coats with stones and threw them into the river.

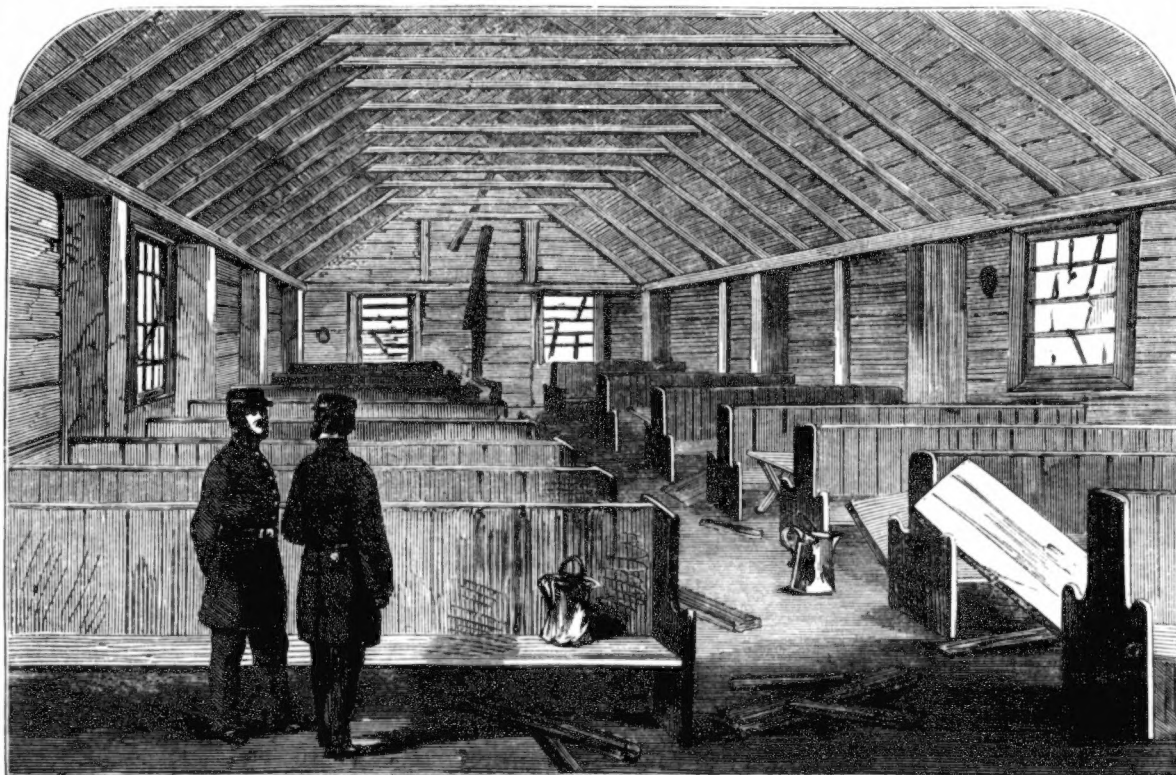
Happily, either there was no concerted plan amongst the prisoners, or they had no real leaders, or perhaps the knowledge that they could not ultimately escape the power of the law checked the idea of proceeding to the full extremity of their temporary opportunity. Had it been otherwise the score or so of officers who had them in charge would have been at the mercy of the brutal, hooting crowd. As it was, the indecision was taken prompt advantage of by the



THE PARADE GROUND.—CONVICTS UNDER PUNISHMENT EXERCISING.

authorities, and, assistance arriving from the dockyard, the convicts were marched down to the ferry a few at a time and taken to the other side of the creek, where those who seemed to be the instigators of the riot were at once chained together and sent off to the prison.

The convict prison at St. Mary's is estimated for the confinement of 1200 prisoners. It is a brick building, the interior of which is principally composed of iron, and lighted both from side windows and from glass in the roof. The arrangement consists of three spacious galleries, containing four tiers of cells, each lighted by its own rough glass window. The parade is a large courtyard extending the entire length of the prison; and it was here that the second revolt took place at the time when the men were mustered after dinner. On this occasion, as before, the ruffians began by hooting and yelling, at the same time throwing their caps into the air. At this moment the Civic Guard contrived to keep the ringleaders out on the parade, while the main body of convicts returned to the prison and destroyed everything within their reach. The military were drawn up outside, however, ready to act in case of emergency. The clocks were smashed, the medicine-room and its stores demolished, and the warders' room entirely dis-



MESSHOUSE, ST. MARY'S ISLAND, WHERE THE REVOLT FIRST BROKE OUT.

mantled, while the stoves were upset, and the burning ashes strewn on the stone floors. When this scene of destruction had continued for some time, the Governor, finding that he could make no impression on the rioters by any other means, called upon the military to render their assistance, who followed the warders as they entered the prison with their staves, while the bugle sounding a charge at the same moment, the convicts took refuge, some of them in their cells and the rest in places as much out of harm's way as possible; and the affair terminated with only a few blows and very little bloodshed even of the ordinary description.

Our Engravings represent the Island of St. Mary, the Prison, with its parade, and the Interior of the Messhouse, the scene of the first outbreak.

### THE VICAR OF WAKEFIELD.

A HUNDRED years ago a book was written which has ever since been identified with simple, touching humour, and with true English feeling. The story and the manner of its writing have been repeated thousands of times, and yet there is something about it so tender, so pure, and so lifelike that we all read it again and again, laughing and crying together as we meet with passages which we almost know



y heart. Reams upon reams of foolscap have been filled with brilliant essays, scathing satire, startling narrative, exciting romance, and have ultimately passed out of public remembrance, if they have not fallen altogether unnoticed, since Oliver Goldsmith sat in Wine-office-court, Fleet-street, endeavouring to keep his landlady at bay, while he sent off to Dr. Samuel Johnson to borrow a guinea; but the little volume which the spendthrift genius was completing has lived in the very heart of the popular regard, and is likely so live while we possess a literature in which ordinary men and women have a share.

"The Vicar of Wakefield" has been reproduced in every form of publication: in cheap reprints, which the schoolboy or the workman might buy for a few pence; in beautifully-illustrated editions, where "new letter" and binding made the volume a typographical art-treasure; or in weekly issues of penny periodicals;—in all these forms we have welcomed it like an old friend coming to us in another dress, and have made its arrival an opportunity for renewing our acquaintance.

Not only has the touching story been dramatised, but, feeling how much power must lie within a simple narrative which has so served to stir the national heart for a whole century, painters have chosen page after page as subjects for pictures, which have themselves been famous. It is not a very big book—a hundred pages, perhaps—not larger than a pamphlet on the church rates or the income tax; and yet there lives within it a force and a vitality which will surprise anybody who remembers how simply the charming narrative appeals to us.

This is truth, as opposed to fiction—truth of style, of sentiment, of human interest, of charity; and all these things combined make greatness, as opposed to littleness on stilts—stilt of wordy balance, of cynicism, of no-meanings wrapped in gorgeous language, too often of ill-meanings made to look pretty.

If the book be a triumph of art, as some might call it, it is art which has so learned to look at nature that it only depicts realities. Nothing but nature can live amongst a whole people beyond an age.

To illustrate the book, either by quotation or, by pictures,



THE VICAR OF WAKEFIELD.—(FROM A PICTURE BY ABSOLON.)

would be to reprint it all, with a cut on each page; and yet we like sometimes to look at a representation of one of the familiar scenes in the charming story. We have chosen that one in which the worthy pastor is troubled at finding that, notwithstanding the reduced circumstances of his family, both his wife and daughters "are secretly attached to all their former finery." He says, "The first Sunday, in particular, their behaviour served to mortify me. I had desired my girls, the preceding night, to be dressed early the next day; for I always loved to be at church a good while before the rest of the congregation. They punctually obeyed my directions; but when we were to assemble in the morning, at breakfast, down came my wife and daughters, dressed out in all their former splendour—their hair plastered up with pomatum, their faces patched to taste, their trains bundled up into a heap behind, and rustling at every motion. I could not help smiling at their vanity, particularly that of my wife, from whom I expected more discretion. In this exigence, therefore, my only resource was to order my son, with an important air, to call our coach. The girls were amazed at the command; but I repeated it with more solemnity than before. 'Surely, my dear, you jest,' cried my wife; 'we can walk it perfectly well. We want no coach to carry us now.' 'You mistake, child,' returned I; 'we do want a coach; for if we walk to church in this trim the very children in the parish will hoot after us.'"

#### THE FATAL ACCIDENT AT KINGSTOWN.

THE subjoined illustration is associated with the fate of poor Captain Boyd and a portion of the crew of the Ajax, who lost their lives in Kingstown harbour, as already detailed in the columns of this Journal. It represents a boat's crew belonging to the Ajax engaged in recovering the bodies of their drowned comrades from amongst the debris of the wreck of the brig Neptune.

Numerous unavailing attempts were made to recover the body of Captain Boyd, and it was not until the morning of the 25th, or sixteen days after the catastrophe, that a Holyhead diver, named Pritchard, succeeded in rescuing from the sea the remains of the lamented officer. The spot near which the body was dis-



BOAT'S CREW OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIP "AJAX" RECOVERING THE BODIES OF THEIR MESSMATES IN KINGSTOWN HARBOUR.—(FROM A SKETCH BY C. N. HOLLAND.)



covered is a little below the crane on the East Pier, and right in view of the Martello Tower at Sandy Cove. The force of the gale carried the body downwards towards the shore, and it was taken up within a few yards of the rocks, in water that was comparatively shallow. The remains were conveyed on board the Ajax. The first person by whom the body was recognised was Lieutenant Morell, second in command of the vessel. It is understood that an inquest will be held.

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## ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1861.

### CHURCH RATES.

ONCE more the House of Commons has enjoyed a good bitter debate on the abolition of church rates. For the last twenty years a bill has been introduced regularly every Session for that purpose (whether for the enjoyment of the bitter debate or for the abolition of the impost we leave in doubt, for we are not clear on the point); and there is every prospect that a certain Wednesday in every February for many years to come will afford our Legislature the same entertainment. At present we see no hope of a settlement of the dispute, much as we may desire such a consummation. This year, indeed, the question has assumed more importance than for several Sessions past, because it was understood that it was to be made the subject of a party struggle; but the abolitionists have not succeeded in enlarging their majority, nor, we think, in improving their case. The feeling against church rates which once agitated the popular mind is declining; and it is not likely to be revived now the abolitionists avow that they will have no compromise, that their object is political, and their real aim the severance of the Church from the State. Mr. Bright may rely upon it that this confession will please nobody but Dissenters of the broadest (or the narrowest) school. It may be an "archæological fancy," but it is a very strong one, that the Church does exist for the nation's good. Its institution may appear unreasonable to Mr. Bright and his followers, who are naturally angry at everything opposed to their views, but they ought to have remembered before they commenced an open attack upon it that there is such a thing as sentiment after all; and that a strong bond of sentiment and tradition attaches this country to the Church. It is unnecessary to inquire how the attachment arises, or how long its growth; there it is, like the ivy round the spire, which may also be an intolerable spectacle to some people of a practical turn. So long as the abolition party confined themselves to the special grievance of having to support a Church to which they did not belong popular sympathy went with them. When they refused the offer of exemption (as whole parishes may exempt themselves if there is a majority against the rate) that sympathy declined; and now, when the declaration is openly made that it is not to avoid the tax but to weaken the Church that they conspire, very little sympathy will be left for them, we suspect, out of the pale of the narrowest sectarianism.

Though the debate of Wednesday proved the prospect of compromise farther off than ever, the abolitionists advanced no new arguments to convince us that compromise is impracticable. In fact, they advanced no new arguments at all; unless Sir John Trelawny's threat of insurrection is to be considered an argument, or Mr. Bright's invective against the salaries and palaces of the Bishops be one. We knew before that he objected to the Bishops sitting in the House of Lords, but then he objects to the House of Lords altogether. No doubt this is a matter which ought to be settled; and, if it were a mere question of the £250,000 a year collected by church rates, we believe it might be settled without much trouble. Mr. Gladstone put the difficulty in a very fair light when he drew a distinction between populous towns and rural parishes. In the latter the burden and the benefit go together pretty much the same now as a hundred years ago. The rate is a burden on the land, paid substantially by the landholder and controlled by the occupier in the vestry; and there stands the church, with a free seat for all who choose to enter; and here almost everybody is a Churchman. But in populous towns property is developed so largely, so rapidly, that the landholder hardly understands that he took his property under an obligation to pay church rates; free seats disappear; the churches do not contain a tenth of the population; and here Dissenters congregate. There is a considerable difference in these cases, and one that should be met as it will not be met by the total abolition of the tax. Cannot the town parishes be content with power to free themselves from the impost if they please? May not the uncomplaining rural parishes continue to tax themselves if they please? Will it not satisfy the Dissenters to be exempted from paying what they do not like to pay?

One thing is certain, unless the sore is salved by compromise it will remain open for many years to come. For the Radicals this may be very convenient (we know the value of "establishing a raw"); but it will be bad for the Church, and annoying to moderate and peaceful politicians. Meanwhile, we do not see what is to be done if no concession will be accepted, while the agitation is avowedly promoted by religious animosity.

### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND THE COURT are now at Osborne. Her Majesty arrived on Monday.

THE QUEEN has appointed Mr. William Jenner, M.D., to be Physician Extraordinary to her Majesty, in the room of the late Dr. William Baly.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has given twenty guineas towards the support of the rifle corps at Shepton Mallet. His Royal Highness is lord of the manor.

PRINCE LOUIS OF HESSE intends to pay a visit to our Court during its sojourn at Osborne this month. His Highness is expected to arrive very shortly, and will accompany her Majesty and the Royal family back to town.

A GRAND MUSICAL PERFORMANCE has just taken place at the King's Palace, Berlin, on the occasion of the termination of the first period of deep mourning for the late King. The "Dead March in Saul," and a requiem by Mozart, were performed, under the conductorship of M. Meyerbeer.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has contributed 10,000*fr.* toward a prize which the Academy of Sciences propose offering for the best essay on the question of the "Reproduction of bone when broken, or crushed by accidents," &c.

IN THE ARMY ESTIMATES there appears, for the first time, a vote for a "Superintendent of Gymnastics" at Aldershot.

KING FRANCIS OF NAPLES is expected to take up his residence at the ancient castle of Banz, in the Bavarian province of Franconia.

IT IS ASSERTED by one of the sergeants of the D division of police that a member of a West-end gang of burglars whom he caught attempting to enter a house in that quarter had in his possession keys for Chubb and Bramah locks, which would open nearly every street door in his division.

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF SWITZERLAND has just rejected a proposition made to it to establish a Swiss Consulate at Nice.

A KIND OF JOINT-STOCK COMBINATION has been formed at Manchester to purchase cotton in India, America, or wherever it can be obtained. The proposed sum is £1,000,000, each subscriber contributing £1000, and about £200,000 is said already to have been paid down.

AN ENTIRE FAMILY WAS POISONED a few days since at Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset, from eating bread made from wheat which had been steeped in sulphate of copper previous to being sown, but which by mistake had been ground.

A FEMALE SERVANT who had been living in a family in Kensington where there was smallpox, upon being seized with it, was turned into the street, and died.

MR. SPURGEON, in introducing Mr. Layard the other evening to an audience at his Tabernacle, said that the connection of "such a man with such a borough has a tendency to lift it out of its primeval mud," and that he would make "Horse-monger-lane equal to the hanging gardens of Nineveh!"

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF BERLIN has granted the diploma of honorary member to the Princess Royal of Prussia.

THE THEATRES OF PARIS, says *Galignani*, have paid into the hands of the dramatic authors and composers, for works performed during the year 1860, the munificent sum of fifty thousand and some odd pounds sterling.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE THEATRES of the suburbs of Vienna have received orders that, before producing any new piece, they must have a general dress rehearsal of it before a commissary of police, so that the costumes may be modified in the event of their appearing objectionable either on moral or political grounds.

THREE FRENCHMEN, who had been condemned to death at Messina—having been detected in a reactionary conspiracy there—are to be removed to Turin, for a new trial. They were betrayed by a Prussian accomplice.

THE FOLLOWING is an accurate classification of the 417 deputies elected for the Italian Parliament:—Uncertain, 11; united Opposition, 73; Ministerialists, 333.

A FIRE broke out in Betts-street, St. George's-in-the-East, on Saturday, destroying a large amount of property and burning to death six valuable horses.

MR. SPURGEON'S TABERNACLE contains 4500 sittings, of which 1000 are free; more than 3000 are let at £1 per annum each. The whole are expected to be let before the end of March. There is still £3000 wanting, which is calculated upon being received within the next month.

THE SUDDEN DEATH OF FRANCIS DANBY, Associate of the Royal Academy, is announced.

M. MEYERBEER has been composing incidental songs for a new play by M<sup>me</sup>. Birch-Pfeiffer, "Der Goldbauer," which has just been produced in the Prussian capital.

THE LIBRARY OF THE LATE BARON HUMOLDT is now in the possession of Mr. Stevens of Trafalgar-square. This valuable collection numbers about 12,000 different works.

A MOTION has been submitted to the Prussian Chamber of Deputies to apply to the Government that diplomatic measures may be taken to secure, by international conventions, the abolition of the passport system.

JEWELS, CASH, and BANK NOTES, valued at £1700, have been stolen from the premises of Lady Otway at Brighton.

A MEMORIAL has been presented to Lord Palmerston praying for more Bishops. The project is to subdivide the large sees of London, Exeter, Durham, Rochester, Lincoln, Gloucester; and thus reinforce the episcopate by the addition of half-a-dozen new Bishops.

THE HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE FISHMONGERS' COMPANY has been unanimously voted to Mr. Cobden, and will be presented to him as soon as he returns to England.

PREPARATIONS are being already made in Paris to give a splendid reception to 3000 of the army in China who are to return to France. The remainder of the French army which made the campaign of China are to proceed to Cochinchina.

THE JUDGES in the HOUSE OF LORDS have decided that a clergyman has no power to solemnise his own marriage, and that the issue of such a marriage is illegitimate. The question came before their Lordships in connection with a case which has excited considerable interest in Ireland—"Beamish v. Beamish."

THE CENSUS IN THE ARMY is to be taken on the night of April 8. SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE contradicts the report of the hopeless nature of his ophthalmic affection.

DR. LISZT is about to pay a professional visit to London.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ART-UNION OF LONDON propose to set apart the sum of £100 every year for "the cultivation of fine art, and the practice of design as applied to manufactures," and especially with reference to the schools in connection with the department of science and art.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE GREAT SHIP COMPANY have issued their report. It announces their intention to send the vessel to America in April next. There will be a sufficient balance in hand to provide for all the work necessary, but to procure the coals and other stores for the voyage the borrowing powers of the company are to be exercised.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has just conferred the great gold medal for science and art upon M. Pauer, a gentleman well known and highly esteemed in the musical world.

LADY RODEN died suddenly of apoplexy on Monday. The sad event took place at her residence in Cavendish-square, where her daughters, the Countess of Gainsborough, the Marchioness of Londonderry, and Lady Marie Forester, had met to lunch with her.

THE FAILURE OF MESSRS. BERSLEY AND FARNER, of the District Iron-works, Smethwick, near Birmingham, is announced. The liabilities are estimated at from £25,000 to £30,000.

THE BODY OF THE UNFORTUNATE CAPTAIN BOYD was found off the east pier at Kingstown on Monday.

GUSTAVO MODENA, a celebrated dramatic artist of Italy, has just died at Milan. His funeral was headed by several distinguished persons, including Generals Cosenz, Medici, Bixio, Turr, M. Brofferio, and a great number of students.

THE FAILURE OF THE POOLE BANK has induced the Wilts and Dorset Banking Company to establish a branch at Bournemouth, the fashionable watering-place near Poole.

THE DEATH OF THE WELL-KNOWN SCULPTOR RIETSCHEL is announced.

A GLASGOW MERCHANT (Mr. John Davie) has absconded, leaving obligations to the amount of £20,000. His friends and relations are the chief sufferers.

THE NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT ASSOCIATION has sent a new boat to Walmer, near Deal, in lieu of the old one. The late Mr. Judkin, of Hackney, has bequeathed £100 to this society.

THE CELEBRATED SOPRANO SINGER VELLUTI died a few days since, aged eighty, at his villa in the environs of Padua, where he had long resided. It was for him that Meyerbeer composed his "Il Crociato," and Rossini his "Auréliano in Palmira."

MR. GEORGE COLLINS, violoncellist, has caused a complete furor at Bordeaux and Pau, where he has been playing to overcrowded audiences.

DURING THE SESSION of 1860 seven election petitions were proceeded on, and twenty-three were withdrawn. Twelve election committees sat during the Session, and three members were unseated.

THE EARL OF ZETLAND, Grand Master of the Freemasons of England, has offered to Earl De Grey and Ripon the office of Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire, vacant on the death of the Earl of Mexborough, and his Lordship has accepted the appointment.

ONE OF THE OLDEST CLERGYMEN IN ENGLAND, the Rev. Peter William Jolliffe, Perpetual Curate of St. James's, Poole, Dorset, in the diocese of Salisbury, has just died at Parkstone, near that town, at the advanced age of ninety-five.

THE FACTORY OPERATIVES OF BLACKBURN AND ACCRINGTON have wisely resolved to bring to a termination their opposition to the proposed reduction of prices by the employers.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE WEST MIDDLESEX and twenty of the St. George's Rifle Corps took place at Wormwood Scrubbs last week, at 300, 500, and 700 yards. The West Middlesex proved the winners by three points only.

LORD BRAYBOOKE was found dead in his bed at Audley End on Thursday week.

THE FUNERAL OF SCRIBE was attended by the Corporation of Paris, the French Academy, all the notabilities of the metropolis, all the literary men in town, the whole staff of every theatre, and upwards of a hundred carriages.

A PAMPHLET, by M. Louis Veullot, entitled "Le Pape et la Diplomatie," is announced.

BATAVIA has been visited by a destructive hurricane, by which the coffee plantations have severely suffered.

THE BLACK PRINCE IRON-CASED STEAM-SHIP was successfully launched at Glasgow on Wednesday. She went off beautifully.

### THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE county of Cork has pronounced against the Government by returning Mr. Leader, a Conservative, in opposition to Mr. Roche (Lord Fermoy's brother), a Liberal. This county has, with one exception, returned no Conservatives to Parliament for thirty years. It is no secret that Popish influence has caused this reaction. The cry has been, "The Pope is in danger!" and in every village and hamlet the priest has proclaimed that all persons who voted for the Liberal were the enemies of the Holy Father. This blow is all the heavier because it is ominous of what may be expected should Lord Palmerston be soon driven to a dissolution. The Conservatives, indeed, boast openly that, if a general election were to occur now, Ireland would not return thirty supporters of the Government. But, then, would not England balance this loss? It is thought that it would; and no doubt it would, if it could but be awakened to the fact that a serious attempt was to be made to force the Government to change its attitude towards the contending parties in Italy. But I do not believe we shall have a dissolution at present. The Conservative leaders have a very strong party now behind them, and I have no doubt that they are already a good deal troubled, by a pressure from behind, to make an attempt to seize the government. But Disraeli, who knows every phase of opinion in the House—no man better—is quite aware that, in proportion as the Irish Catholic element in his party gets strong, another portion of his own party gets shaky. In short, party questions are in such a complicated state just now, owing to this Italian question, that it is the opinion of the best-informed politicians that no grand coup will be attempted yet, and that, if an attempt were made, it would fail.

Meanwhile, there comes, privately, curious news from Rome. Pius IX. when young was a Liberal, had aspirations after the union of Italy, popular sympathies, and longings for reform. Well, it is asserted that these aspirations and sympathies have returned, and that, to the great disgust of his Cardinals, he is again mauling around a free, a united Italy, and expressing a belief that, were the Papal See to be deprived of its territories, "it would, under the providence of God, work for good." This is strange, if true; and that it is true I have good reason for saying I have no doubt. The old man is right, though, after all; for Roman Catholicism would not die, nor the Papal spiritual authority be lessened, if every inch of ground were to be taken away from the Pope, but, on the contrary, would most likely be stronger than it has been for centuries.

The agitation on the subject of the "Seven Essays" increases in intensity every day. The Bishops have fulminated against them. Parker, the original publisher, has declined the honour, and has handed the work over to Messrs. Longman; and everywhere it is talked about and discussed more than any book has been since the days of the Waverley Novels. Meanwhile, the Bishops' anathema is confessedly a *brutum fulmen*, a harmless bolt: the attempt to extinguish the book has only puffed it into notoriety. Longman's people cannot get copies fast enough; and thousands are reading these awful "Essays" who but for all this noise would never have heard of them. No policy could be worse than that which the Bishops have adopted. As they obviously can do nothing effective, they should have been quiet. The only way to kill a book is to neglect it. Agitate about it, and you increase its circulation and influence.

The question at issue between the managers of theatres and the lessees of music-halls as to what is and what is not a theatrical performance is at length likely to receive a legal solution. At the last meeting of the managers it was decided that Mr. Webster, as one of the oldest managers, should take out a summons against Mr. Morton, of Canterbury Hall, one of the most largely-attended of the music-halls, for having contravened the Act for Regulating Theatres by the production of a pantomime. Various witnesses were called in support of the allegation, but, at the time of our writing, the proceedings stand adjourned to some day not yet named. Readers of this Journal will remember that several weeks since I mentioned that the Christmas theatrical season had been unusually unenumerative, and that this was ascribable partly to the severe weather, but in a great measure to the adverse influence of the music-halls. Seeing in the bills of these last-named places the open announcement that they were playing "pantomime, burlesque, and farce," I wondered that the theatrical managers had delayed so long in taking measures to protect the rights given to them in the Act of Parliament. That the Act has been infringed there can, I think, be little doubt by any one having visited the music-halls or merely having read the evidence. With the exception of Mr. Woodin's and Miss Stanley's, I cannot call to mind one "entertainment" of the present day which is not a direct violation of the law; but whether the rights granted under this law are equitable, and whether the Act itself should not be amended, is quite another matter. The "entertainment" is a new species of amusement, and should be legislated for in common with dramatic plays. The old monologue or monopolylogue—the "Mathews at Home" style of entertainment—does not come into this category, nor would the giver of it be visited by managerial wrath; but as soon as two persons or more are engaged in an "entertainment" it is clearly a dramatic performance. Granted. What then? Why, though these performances must not be given under the present Act, there is no reason why they should not at once be legalised under an Act of their own. They have become a requirement of the day, there is nothing in the smallest degree objectionable in them, and they are given by some of the most talented and respectable people in the theatrical profession. Let them be taken proper cognisance of by the law—let them come under the censorship of the Lord Chamberlain—and then no one pretending to value open competition and free trade can say a word against the "entertainments." The music-hall question deserves well-searching investigation, as the proprietors of these places have an infinite advantage over theatrical managers in their being able to give suppers, drink, and tobacco to their patrons while the performance is going on. Meanwhile it is quite right that the whole subject should be thoroughly ventilated, and the appeal to the magistrates will doubtless bring about some proper and satisfactory result.

Law and the drama have also been brought into juxtaposition during the past week in the action of Reade v. Conquest, the former being the veteran novelist, the latter the proprietor of the Grecian Theatre. Mr. Conquest had produced a dramatic version of "Never Too Late to Mend." Mr. Reade objected, and claimed an infringement.



ment of copyright. The law has been appealed to, and has given her verdict against Mr. Reade; and henceforth he and Mr. Charles Dickens, and other authors who object to seeing the children of their fancy brought to base uses and the poetry of their dialogue distorted and snipped into bad lengths by the scissors of the playwright, will have to condole together while dramas giving very little trouble and costing very little money are built up out of the products of their brains.

While bishops are memorialising archbishops and the Lower House of Convocation is expressing solemn opinions on the heresies of the "Essays and Reviews," in one direction at least a practical result of the evil consequences of the publication of the work has been manifested. It is said that several of the pupils have been removed from Rugby, of which school Dr. Temple, one of the contributors, is head master, and others are preparing to follow.

It is said that the author of the articles in the February number of the *Cornhill* on "Samples of Fine English" is Mr. H. F. Chorley's, known as the writer of several works on music and as a musical critic. Many samples of very peculiar English may be found in Mr. Chorley's libretto of the "Domino Noir," now being played at Covent Garden.

There is a rumour—which must be taken with several grains of salt—that the Duke of Newcastle will succeed Lord Canning in the Governor-Generalship of India, and that previous to undertaking his new duties his Grace will be united to a Princess of the blood Royal, whose personal graces and kindly heart have made her beloved by all who have had the honour of her acquaintance.

A recent correspondent of the *Times* expressed a wish that those gentlemen who instruct the world through the medium of the press should at least be acquainted with the matters on which they write, and correct in their assertions. A new light has recently dawned upon the world in the person of a dramatic critic or "correspondent" as he is called, in the pages of *Punch*, a singularly witty, genial, and well-read person, evidently thoroughly versed in dramatic lore. He has taken the critics of other journals roundly to task; brands them, with one or two exceptions, as venal impostors, and, from the style of his article and his signature "One who Pays," shows that he considers the theatrical reporters for the press are purchasable at so much a head. It is sad to chronicle, but even this great genius is human and liable to error. In his last effusion he goes out of his way to sneer at a farce, which has been very successful, as "stupid and coarse," and he contrasts it with the "neat writing and construction" of "Court Favour," which immediately succeeded it. The farce may be stupid, that is a matter of taste; coarse it is not, that is a matter of fact; but it is original; whereas the neatness of the writing and construction of "Court Favour" is due to a French gentleman, for, alas! "Court Favour" is the translation of a French piece in which M<sup>me</sup>. Jenny Vertpré was so great. He didn't know this, this correspondent who pays so readily and writes so ill; but surely it was his business to learn it; more especially when writing in the columns of a periodical which is perpetually complaining of the system of dramatic translation, and which, in the very same number, has two separate jocular paragraphs, the material for which is furnished by the death of M. Scribe.

Mr. Edward Draper, who unites the professions of law and literature, is to give a lecture on "Crime and Criminals," at the Pimlico Institution, on Monday.

#### THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Craven, an actor of several years' standing, has latterly turned his literary ability and his knowledge of stage requirements to good account. His drama of "The Postboy" at the Strand was a well-deserved success; but his new piece, "The Chimney Corner," at the OLYMPIC, is remarkable for the manner in which the author has obtained the highest melodramatic effects without any exaggeration or violation of probabilities. The construction of the piece is good and the dialogue smart and easy; a little straining after point is, perhaps, its greatest fault. In this piece Mr. Robson is fitted with a part thoroughly suitable to his peculiar genius, a part requiring the most delicate discrimination, the most thoroughly artistic rendering. It is needless to say that in Mr. Robson's hands it receives full justice, and when the curtain falls the audience can scarcely tell whether their laughter or their tears have been most predominant at the honest, kindly-hearted, irascible little chandler. Mr. Horace Wigan has a speciality for making great effects in small characters; his delineation of a half-imbecile nonagenarian is most admirable, and not in the least repulsive. All engaged in the performance are good. Mrs. Leigh Murray, so buxom, so tender, so motherly; Miss Hughes, pleasantly and unaffectedly interesting; Mr. Gordon, earnest and gentlemanly; and Mr. Gaston Murray (who has studied under a good master, and acquired much of his art), highly cool and villainous.

#### THE BISHOP OF DURHAM AND HIS CLERGY.

HAUGHTON-LE-SKERNE is a pleasant village, the rectory of which is worth £1300 a year, and its population is about 1000. Close to Haughton stands the large town of Darlington, with a rapidly-increasing population already amounting to 15,000, with three churches and three incumbents, dividing among them the munificent sum of less than £800 a year, and with Curates to pay. Haughton-le-Skerne has just become vacant by the death of the late Bodelean Librarian, Dr. Bandinel; whereupon the people of Darlington memorialise the Bishop of Durham to alienate part of the revenues of Haughton for the endowment of a new district in Darlington, to be in the Bishop's patronage. The Bishop declines to do it. He has scruples of conscience; he wishes that he could find "some more equitable proceeding by which the income of the Darlington clergy can be improved." Such a plan "shall meet with his cordial co-operation;" but as things are, and destitute as Darlington is, it is for the railway company, and not for the Bishop's large living, to provide for the spiritual necessities of Darlington. Although the good Bishop "would have been glad to express his high sense of the value of Mr. Minton's (one of the Darlington clergy) services, and the satisfaction it would afford him to hear so good a man had his stipend increased," still Dr. Villiers "cannot feel it to be the proper course to take from the income of Haughton-le-Skerne to apply the same in furtherance of the good cause in Darlington." Whatever the good cause in Darlington may be, the Bishop forgets to explain what the good cause at Haughton-le-Skerne is. All that his Lordship says is:—"I have already given the living of Haughton-le-Skerne to a gentleman whose talent, piety, and pastoral activity," &c. The Bishop does not add that the talented, pious, and active gentleman's name is Cheese, and that he is twenty-eight years of age, and has married the Bishop's daughter. In this gentleman's behalf his father-in-law did one little job which set all the clergy in Carlisle in a flame. And now, before he has been six months in Durham, he has repeated the blunder.

Writing of this gross instance of nepotism, a correspondent of the *Times* says:—"When certain livings in the diocese of Durham were assigned to the Bishops of Chester, Manchester, and Ripon, Dr. Longley persuaded the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to leave undisturbed the patronage of five or six valuable rural benefices, Haughton-le-Skerne among the number, on the express ground that, if deprived of them, the Bishop of Durham would have no means of adequately providing for and remunerating such clergymen as distinguished themselves by long and useful services in the large northern towns. Dr. Longley told his clergy generally of this arrangement. Are we to suppose that his successor was left in ignorance of it?"

FLOODING IN THE ARMY.—The movement for the abolition of the brutal practice of flogging in the army continues. A public meeting was held in Southwark on Tuesday night, on which occasion Mr. Layard severely reprobated the system, and exhibited that of the "cat-o'-nine-tails."

## Literature.

*The Russians at Home.* Unpolitical Sketches. By SUTHERLAND EDWARDS. Wm. H. Allen and Co.

"It is astonishing," says General Damas, in "The Lady of Lyons," "how much I like a man after I have fought with him." "To like" and "to be interested in" are nearly synonymous terms, and it is with nations as with individuals. Mankind are not all brothers. If they were they would know each other better, and probably would never fight at all; for, putting factiousness and cynicism aside, family fights are rare exceptions. Fighting usually arises from mutual want of knowledge, which is proved by the eagerness with which we pick up information about any nation with which we have just made peace. If Franchi had only wounded, instead of having taken the life of, Chateau Renaud, there is little doubt that Chateau Renaud would speedily have been in a position to make an arrangement with Levy frères for a Life of Franchi. Five years after the treaty that guaranteed the integrity of the Eastern gentleman who was indisposed, we are still warmly interested in whatever comes from Russia, or is about Russia—and, like the General quoted above, it is astonishing how much we are beginning to like the Russians after we have fought with them. The ball was really opened by Lieutenant Royer, of her Majesty's ship *Tiger*, who, for the trifling consideration of liberty, liked the Russians so much that he promised not to fight them again; and even Lord Forth could not deny the national hospitality in giving the stranger a "warm reception." Lake and Teesdale, also, to judge from "Our Captivity in Russia," infinitely preferred the Russians whom they attacked to the Turks whom they defended. Even Dr. Sandwith must have prescribed for them harmlessly.

"The Russians at Home" tells more about the people, if less about the country, than any amount of absolute "Murrays" could possibly effect. It is emphatically of the modern description of travellers' tales. It might be dared to say that Mr. Sutherland Edwards has no conception of the height of any one tower on the Kremlin, and that he would fail to calculate the number of snowballs that a winter might furnish to a given street in Moscow. He has devoted himself essentially to observations of the people; to the eternal "habits, manners, and customs;" to what they eat and drink, or read; what music they like, what plays they see, and to their institutions generally. This is precisely what was wanted; for, with the honourable exception of Mr. Sala, writers on Russia have always given one style of book—a book compounded of measurement and scene-painting, confused political disquisitions concerning the country's future, a few ghosts from the Court of Catherine, the story of Pestal being pounded (for the young ladies, because a song was written about him), and the statement that the Russians drink tea and thrash their servants with thick sticks. The "Englishwoman in Russia" was certainly of a fresher description; but the writer's experience had been limited, a curtailment that would have been of more value if applied to her credulity. The first line of Mr. Edwards's book indicates its novel character by giving the startling information that the Russians talk Russian. That such information should be startling sounds like a paradox; but the fact is, if the reader will consider, he will remember his old impression that the Russians talk French. That language is certainly spoken amongst diplomatic people and the highest cultivated classes; but all but the very few refresh themselves with their habitual flood of consonants as surely as the English speak English and the Choctaws Choctaw. In proof, all the journals, with one or two exceptions are in the native tongue, and the most important works in English and French are regularly translated and largely diffused. The chapters in the present volume on journalism and the literature and drama of the country are of great interest. There is a censorship of the press, but it is always exercised with a discretion that points to the discovery of the desideratum—a wise despotism. In Russia a journalist or a dramatist may abuse Government officials as much as he pleases—which is usually a great deal—and express his opinions freely; but if he writes lies they will be carefully expunged (as is also the case with imported papers) with a little machine which neatly takes off every particle of the obnoxious printer's ink. English people will draw from such a censorship a comparison very "odorous" to the French. The dramas, which, by-the-way, are all comedies, appear to be excellently humorous, and all to turn upon the fraudulent tendencies of the Executive. The translated specimens of these, and the fables of Griloff, are of value for showing the turn of Russian thought. It was imagined that they had no literature; but, on the contrary, there is a periodical press as copious and at least as high-toned as that of any other country; whilst in the important matter of price it is cheaper than any literature in the world. The Russians practise literature more than the arts, and patronise the opera more than the drama. A noble may write as many books as he pleases; but he will scarcely condescend to exhibit a painting—in which delicate distinction he is borne out by the nobility of England, in which country, curiously enough, Royalty itself is the solitary instance known of Art being practised by the bearer of a title. In many matters the Russians are the very reverse of the English. In St. Petersburg morning calls are made in London evening costume. People never drink without eating, and always eat last; so that in the event of a Russian and an Englishman dining together, and being mutually hospitable, the effect of the old lady in "Pickwick," "swelling visibly" over the tea, would be as nothing to the frightful calamities that might befall the two polite but ignorant acquaintances. Tea-drinking is the really great national institution. The Americans will "liquor-up" an "eye-opener" or a "corpe-reviver" after striking a bargain; the English will probably talk it over a dinner; but the Russian will certainly celebrate the event with a few cups of tea and a slice of lemon. Traktirs, or teahouses, are almost literally teahouses, and— from the fact of the leaf being imported overland, instead of in the dismal hold of a ship sailing in ruinous climates—the tea they provide is stated to be beyond comparison better than anything that can be obtained in England.

A very valuable and interesting paper is that on "Winter; at Home and in the Streets." It will not do to forget that Russia is a cold place, although many travellers come back and say it is nothing compared to an English January. By the same rule Anglo-Indians say that Calcutta is not hotter than London in July; but, perhaps, both travellers do not take into consideration the preparations made to remedy the annoyance. Triple windows are common in Russia, astonishing curtains; garments so thick that strong people only can walk in them; and fires are of a kind to scorch the skin merely to read of them. Ladies will be glad to learn that when the Muscovite nose is frozen it is white, a colour greatly to be preferred to the Imperial purple and Magenta tones which gave so gorgeous and animated an appearance to our streets during the memorable frost of 1860-1. Vigorous exercise with a snowball is the only compromise if you would retain the central organ; but Mr. Edwards was not so fortunate as to see a philanthropist in the streets rush, snowball in hand, at an icicle and a brother; but other travellers manage to see it as regularly as a French gentleman sees an English wife sold in Smithfield Market. As the cold attacks the nose, so we may say that winter really cuts up the face of society. The trades absolutely stopped are numerous. The stream will not turn the mill, the mortar becomes stone and will not spread, the plough cannot even scratch the stern surface of the earth. The miller is not daunted, but actively plies the hammer and the adze; the bricklayer throws the shuttle, and the ploughman handles the facile sledge-whip. Jack of two trades everybody must be. This, therefore, is an advantage, as nobody has ever "got to work to do-o-o;" their Coventry weavers are never distressed from any cause whatever; their preachers are never abused by their Bishops for building churches with money intended for poverty-stricken soup; and their magistrates are never

driven to execute the disgusting and revolting office of administering the donations of the unthinking, the reckless, and the charitable. And will our wearied, worn-out English go and settle in Russia? They cannot go to America, for the very negroes laugh at them for performing menial offices. The English, especially, are fond of a little litigation, be it civil or criminal, and also of rendering the best assistance to the poorest wretch whom they find suffering under a hedge or see knocked over by a drunken cabdriver. Let us see how he would fare in Russia:—

The Russian police find their profit in every crime or misadventure that is brought beneath their notice. If a lodger in an hotel misses anything, and informs the police of his loss, they will make him pay for laying his complaint before them; they will make the hotelkeeper pay for suffering things to be stolen from his hotel; and if they know the thief they may be at the same time receiving money from him in consideration of not taking him into custody. A person of my acquaintance had a book stolen from him, and, having traced it to a bookstall, was foolish enough to give the suspected thief into custody. Gladly did the policeman take the thief, gladly did the thief go with the policeman. The loser of the book in the meanwhile had to appear time after time at the police-office and to give money on each occasion, until at last he was allowed to withdraw his charge on payment of two roubles. A Frenchman who lived in the principal commercial street of Moscow assured me that if he caught any one stealing from his shop (which sometimes happened) he never thought of handing him over to the police. He had done so, he said, too often; for, once mixed up with the police, there was no getting rid of them, and to obtain justice was out of the question. "What, then, do you do with a detected shoplifter?" I asked. "We take him into the room at the back, thrash him, and then kick him out into the street," was the reply. "We know, at all events, we shall not see him again. He is glad to get off so easy—and so are we." This horror of the police is so great that a Russian will avoid the body of a dead or dying man lest the alguazils should see him and accuse him of the murder, with a view to extortion. A friend of mine was in the *Troitz* restaurant at Moscow one day when a merchant suddenly fell dead from apoplexy. In an instant the tables near him were deserted. There was no one to untie the expiring man's neckerchief. The first thought of every one was how to escape the police.

This is all very bad. A drunken sailor up Ratcliff-highway, rolling in riches after his cruise, would not be able to "square" Mr. Yardley or Mr. Selfe with as many sovereigns as they would find him pennies. Russia is full of hardships and inhumanities. True, it is a large country, and one man's eyes cannot see all over it. Naturally, we should be inclined to attribute it to the despotic system, were it not that in Republican countries we find precisely similar evils. We suspect that it is really the result of a certain ingenious faculty for "taking advantage" in the people—a faculty which is of course the reason of their success as diplomatists.

The tenor of "The Russians at Home" will astonish the reader—it will probably convince. Written in a clear style, which irresistibly conveys the idea of truth, the book describes the Russians as they appeared to Mr. Edwards—very worthy, intelligent people, of sound hearts and brains, accomplished, and improving. Certainly the Russians were never so well spoken of before. Sometimes, however, the author attempts to paint the Russians white by laying charcoal thickly on others. He finds certain faults in the Russians, truly, but then he proves that they exist in the English also, and the Russians have many virtues which the English have not. Some of the worst features of Russian life must inevitably disappear with the abolition of serfdom, now rapidly proceeding. The serf when free will no longer conceal the existence of a valuable mine because he will know that he will be paid for working it. In every way society will improve, and that much-talked-about "future of Russia" will be an astonishing strength which there is no reason to fear will be used for a bad purpose.

This book may be recommended as embodying a large amount of varied information concerning Russia in the pleasantest possible form. Every page has the advantage of being readable, and is always fresh in what it has to say, and in the manner of saying it. In fine, Mr. Sutherland Edwards has written about the Russians precisely that which handbook travellers are incapable of writing, and the book is, therefore, one to be read, and not, like the handbook, calculated to make confounded that which was already confused.

*Photographs of Paris Life: a Record of the Politics, Art, Fashion, and Anecdote of Paris during the past Eighteen Months.* By CHRONIQUEUSE. W. Tinsley.

It is an ignoble confession, perhaps, but we have been entertained by this Imperial puff, with its little bits of scandal, criticism, fashion, and what not. We like, for instance, to read the fashions; no lady can go into *tulle illusion*, *guipure*, and all that, with greater zest than we do, such is the inborn frivolity of our character. We are not, however, going to quote the fashions for the last eighteen months, but only to give a scrap or two of anecdote and information out of what has tickled our own humour here and there.

Beginning at random, what do our readers think of an entable bouquet? This is said to be an accomplished fact. (While the flower is still on the stem it is coated with sugar, and so allowed to ripen in the sun. A nosegay and mouthgay of this kind is reported to have been sent to the Princess Clotilde, and roses are got up in the same manner. What a French idea! What an opening for romantic poisoners! A despairing lover can now propose suicide to his sweetheart by sending her a bunch of sugared ranunculus, and she can reply by a bunch of sugared nightshade.

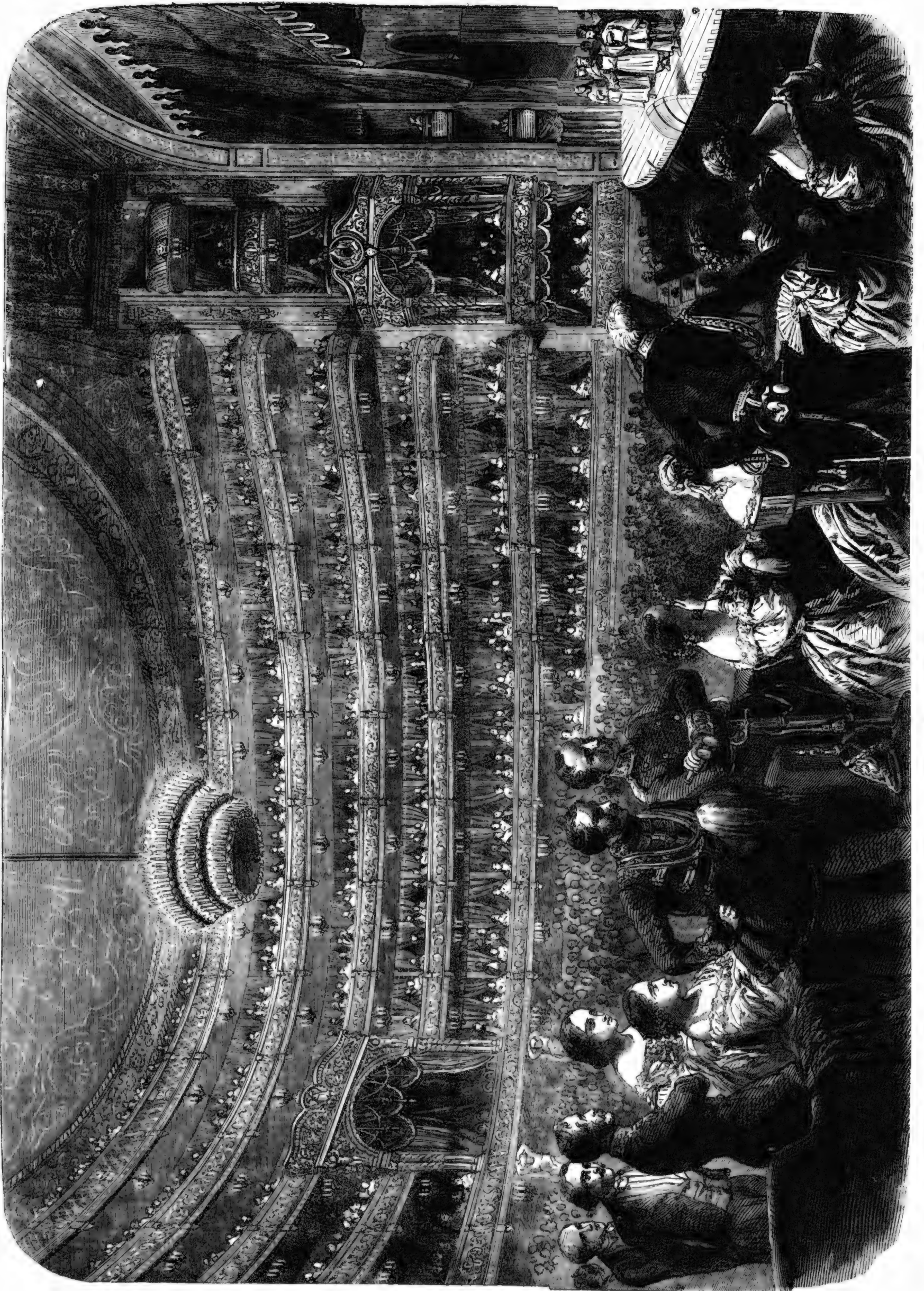
An actress with a very fine figure went to an artist to ask him to sketch her a dress for a new part in "Le Cid." She said it must be modest, but must show her shoulders, her ankles, her arm, &c.; she wished to be chary of her charms, and yet to display them to the best advantage. "I see what you want, madame," said the artist, "quelque chose qui laisse tout voir sans rien montrer"—something which will let everything be seen without showing anything.

"Chroniqueuse" stands up for crinolines! Nobody knows how comfortable they are, says she, in hot weather; and she is quite sure Miss Martineau has never worn one, or else she would never have said what she did in *Once a Week*. It is pretty certain that that lady does not wear crinolines, for we have been informed that such is the state of her health that in her Ambleside retreat not even friend or servant is permitted to enter her room, except at stated times. As has often been publicly stated, her complaint is head-disease, and a sudden tap at the door might kill her; the actual arrangement enables her to know when to expect anybody.

We should not be dealing fairly with *La Chroniqueuse* if we did not mention that she is strictly proper and strictly Protestant. She reminds the *demi monde* of the gay city that "virtue alone is happiness below;" and she gave up the "descent of a rocky pass" that she wished to make rather than comply with the suggestion of the guide that she should say an *Ave Maria*, as he would not answer for her neck otherwise. This sets one thinking. Doubtless there are twenty thousand women in England at this moment, all leading lives as empty as a bladder, who would rather be burnt than say an *Ave*.

"Chroniqueuse," by-the-by, tells a story about a new line of female industry, which we will abbreviate:—An old man and his daughter being in lodgings, the father fell ill, and could not go to his work. The landlord supposed he would be unable to pay the rent, and kindly told the girl she might pay whenever she could, and need not distress herself. "Oh," said she, "I earn enough to keep us both." "How?" "I am an *arangeuse d'ouvrage* (an advancer or expeditor of work). And pray what is that?" The girl then explained that while ladies were supposed, in the absence of their lords, to be finishing crochet, embroidery, &c., at home, the fair creatures in reality went out and about on their own little truant errands, employing the *arangeuse* to do the work for them. Next morning the wife produces her knitting or what not to her husband, who praises her industry and goodness, and thinks what a capital thing fancy-work is for amusing women. Certainly, they manage these things cleverly in France.





INTERIOR OF THE GREAT THEATRE AT MOSCOW



## THE GREAT THEATRE AT MOSCOW.

LA SCALA at Milan, Her Majesty's Theatre, the Paris Opera, the new Covent Garden, have all their devoted admirers, who believe entirely in their superior size, elegance, or convenience, and patronise them sedulously; and they doubtless each of them boast of some especial perfection which they hope to hold unrivalled.

There is another candidate for universal admiration, however, which, although it lies at an inconvenient distance for most travellers to test its superiority, ranks high both for splendour of decoration and vast extent of area. This is the Great Theatre of Moscow, erected under the superintendence of M. Albert Cavo, Architect to the Court of Russia.

Of this magnificent edifice we find a detailed description in Mr. Sutherland Edwards's new and interesting work, entitled "The Russians at Home." This we cannot do better than quote for the benefit of our readers:—

"One morning in the winter of 1853, during a rehearsal, the theatre at Moscow caught fire, and, with the exception of the outer walls, was burnt to the ground. During the year 1854 there was no 'Great Theatre'; but in the spring of 1855 the masons and bricklayers set vigorously to work, and the whole theatre, with all its decorations, was completed in a year and four months. It is true that the builders raised our Covent Garden from its ruins in less than half that time, and that the entire Winter Palace in St. Petersburg was erected in a twelvemonth; but to finish the Moscow Theatre, the most finished that exists, in a year and four months (including a winter of nearly six months, during which it is impossible for bricklayers to work), was a very creditable performance.

"M. Cavo, the architect of the new theatre, had already been engaged, to remedy some fault in the construction of the St. Petersburg Opera House which caused the singers to be heard to great disadvantage, and which had always existed. This theatre was first erected in Catherine's reign. It was reconstructed, and, having been burned down, reconstructed again by Alexander I. At last the Emperor Nicholas called in M. Cavo, who had been mentioned as the man of the situation. M. Cavo pulled down the interior and rebuilt it, when it was found that not only was the theatre admirable for sonority, but that the stage was wider, and the *salle* more spacious, and altogether handsomer than before.

"At Moscow, then, M. Cavo had, to a great extent, to do what he had already done at St. Petersburg, only that at the Moscow theatre the space was greater and the reconstruction more thorough. There, as at the St. Petersburg Theatre, the acoustic problem has been solved most satisfactorily. Not the slightest sound is lost, there is not the least tendency to an echo, and you can hear equally well in all parts of the house.

"There are five rows of boxes at the Moscow Opera House, besides an amphitheatre and a gallery, or 'paradis,' which occupies the whole of the top tier. There are sixteen boxes on the pit tier, thirty on the grand tier, or *bel étage*, and twenty on each of the amphitheatre tiers. Every box in the theatre has a room, or 'cabinet,' attached to it; those on the *bel étage* have 'cabinets,' which are so many little drawing-rooms, furnished with sofas, mirrors, and damask hangings. The usual allowance of chairs for each box is six, but there is plenty of room for ten or twelve persons, or even more, according to our Western notions of theatrical comfort. Each person taking a box is as much the proprietor of it for the evening as if it were his ordinary residence. It holds as many as you like to put into it; and, of course, for this very reason it is a proof of very bad taste to fill it.

"The Emperor has two boxes at the Moscow Theatre—one for gala nights in the middle of the *bel étage*, very magnificent, and reaching to the tier above; the other a comparatively quiet affair on the right of the stage, but, at the same time, the most richly-decorated proscenium-box ever seen. Adjoining the latter is a lofty and splendidly furnished drawing-room leading to a retiring-room. These apartments, to which there is a special staircase and entrance, are always prepared for the Emperor when he is in Moscow. Opposite the ordinary Imperial box is one set apart for the Ministers of State.

"For the general public there are on the ground floor about five hundred stalls. Each stall is a separate armchair, in which you can enjoy as much space as you would desire in any drawing-room. There is a passage down the middle of the 'stalls'—as in the pit of Her Majesty's, only wider—and there is a passage all round them; so that at any period of the evening you can walk quietly to or from your place without incommencing either yourself or your neighbour.

"The price of stalls is regulated by their proximity to the stage, and also by the attractiveness of the performances. When the Italians are playing, the chairs in the front rows let for six roubles (about a pound), the back rows for five and four roubles. A bureau for the sale of tickets, attached to the theatre, is open all day and during the performances, but no money is taken at the doors; nor, on entering the theatre, are you required to give up your ticket, or even, as a rule, to show it. Each ticket entitles the holder to a seat, and in order that there may be abundance of room for some two thousand persons no such thing as 'standing room' is recognised. If you do not know the way to your place, there are plenty of attendants to point it out to you; and it is for the place you pay, not for the mere admission. The Russians take their servants with them to the theatre, and in the winter the wide corridors on each tier are full of them. They mount guard at the back of the boxes, perhaps criticising the music or, more probably by far, the audience, and waiting in readiness to call the carriage at the first nod, and to untie the sheet in which are inclosed the furs and goloshes that their masters and mistresses will put on before venturing from the vestibule down the steps of the portico to their covered sledge.

"It may be mentioned that behind the stalls there are rows of seats with partitions (like the stalls at Her Majesty's Theatre). They let for about half the price of the stalls—two or three roubles during the performances of the Italians, and three-quarters of a rouble afterwards—and correspond to our pit.

"The general appearance of the interior is brilliant and imposing. A great deal of gold is employed in the ornamentation, but it is distributed with taste. The panels of the boxes are white, ribbed with a delicate light blue, and are adorned with a gold scrollwork, the borders being pure white. The two proscenium-boxes seem built of gold; but they are very lofty, and have a light and elegant appearance, in spite of the richness of the decoration. All the hangings are of crimson damask silk.

"But the most remarkable thing about the interior of this theatre has yet to be mentioned.

"In the construction of boxes the architect has had the happy idea of combining the Italian with the French style. The retiring-rooms represent the Italian boxes, the boxes themselves the French ones. The crimson hangings adorn and partly conceal the former, which are thus made to resemble the private boxes at an Italian Opera House; while the latter unite and form one large balcony, like the French *balcon*, or the dress-circle of an English theatre. During the performance the inhabitants of the boxes come forward, and the ladies' toilettes are seen to advantage, as in the French theatres. During the *entr'acte* they retire to their miniature drawing-rooms, or '*loges à l'Italienne*,' as M. Cavo calls them, and receive their friends in the Italian style.

"It is like going out of your real domestic drawing-room into the balcony to see some show, and then returning inside when the show is at an end.

"The drop-scene, an admirable painting by Duzi, a Venetian, the colour of which harmonises perfectly with the decorations of the theatre, represents the triumphal entry of Prince Pojarsky and Minin, the cattle-dealer of Nijni Novgorod, into the Kremlin, after the liberation of Moscow from the Poles in 1612. Minin and Pojarsky are seen on horseback approaching the Holy Gate, and surrounded by groups of enthusiastic peasants and citizens. The women are dressed in *kokosniks* and *sarafans*, like the Russian wet nurses in the present day, and the men in caftans and girdles, the unchanged and apparently unchangeable costume of the Russian peasant. Prince Pojarsky, too, wears the Oriental costume habitual to the boyars until the time of Peter. The picture is very dramatic, and it has the advantage of recalling one of the most popular eras in Russian history.

"The lighting of the theatre is effected by means of one enormous



CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL.

central chandelier, which burns oil, and ninety candelabra, each of which bears seven wax tapers. The candelabra are equally distributed along the five rows of boxes, but on ordinary occasions only those of the *bel étage* are made use of. When, however, the Emperor appears in state the whole theatre is lighted up, and the brilliant effect of the illumination is heightened by the number of diamonds displayed by the ladies of the Court. No one is admitted except by invitation, and all the men have to appear in uniform."

## CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL.

THE spire of this cathedral, and the tower and supporting arches, were totally destroyed by the storm which raged half over England last week.

For some time past the attention of the architect, Mr. Slater, has been directed to the restoration of the south-west and north-west piers, which were in a very defective state; every precaution has been, or was in the course of being, taken to give the tower proper support, but on Sunday last some of the old stonework gave way, and workmen were set on to strengthen the supports; still no fear of such a calamity as we now record was entertained. Two eminent engineers and the cathedral architect were of opinion that the spire was safe. During the morning of Thursday week a very ominous cracking, giving way of plaster, and falling of pieces of stone, gave warning of danger, and on the workmen returning from dinner they were ordered to discontinue work and leave the building. By this forethought their lives were saved. Another fortunate circumstance is, that in falling the spire, according to eyewitnesses, crumbled into itself, the area of ruin being little larger than the space occupied by the tower and its supports. The transept, nave, and choir remain apparently safe. The fall seemed to be a gradual subsidence. The spire preserved its erect position until the vane vanished beneath the roof. In about five seconds this beautiful structure became a mass of ruins. It was an object of beauty for miles around, and served as a landmark to the traveller, go which way he would.

The Bishop and other inhabitants residing in houses adjacent to the cathedral had timely warning. The fabric, with the exception of portions of the north and south transepts, is apparently uninjured. The gale of the previous night doubtless accelerated the fall.

Chichester Cathedral consists of a nave and choir and transepts, forming the cruciform plan usually adopted in buildings of its class. At the east end is attached a Lady chapel, now used as the cathedral library, and at the west end there were two towers, though one of them became ruinous, and was removed during the last century. This cathedral has usually been classed among our smaller and least interesting cathedrals; but, nevertheless, in the massive and lofty detached belfry tower, in the unusual arrangement of double aisles to the nave, and, above all, in the spire, placed in the centre of the building, rising to a height of 272 feet, and only surpassed in altitude by two other spires in the kingdom, it possessed features which, in the opinion of those who have much studied it, raised it to a high rank of estimation.

In the autumn of 1859 certain alterations were determined upon in memorial of the late Dean. The object was to remove the fittings of the choir, to which part of the building the performance of Divine service had been hitherto confined, and to make the whole church as far as possible available for the use of the congregation. No alteration of the structure of the building was contemplated. The removal of the fittings, such as pews, pulpits, and wood floors, stalls, and organ gallery, was accordingly proceeded with. The organ gallery was placed across the church, nearly under the western arch of the four which supported the spire, and had under it a stone screen, commonly known as Bishop Arundel's shrine, and this completely shut off the nave from the central and eastern part of the cathedral. The shrine formed no part of the construction of the building, being, in fact, four centuries newer than the walls near

which it stood, and with which it was wholly unconnected. The removal of the stallwork and shrine disclosed some serious defects in the supports of the great western arch of the tower. The four arches and their piers, or supports, belonged to work erected at the end of the twelfth century, and were, therefore, more than 700 years old. The tower was added about the year 1200, and the spire was placed upon it about 200 years later. The piers bore the enormous addition of weight with difficulty, and settlements and displacements have occurred at various periods, particularly about the supports of the south-west corner. Those discovered on the removal of the fittings were like the old fractures which had long been open to observation, and accordingly excited no apprehensions; but it was subsequently found that the western piers were split vertically, and the stones much crushed and fractured. The necessary reparation was immediately commenced.

As a precaution, strong framings of timber were placed under the west, north, and south arches, which, up to the last moment, exhibited no sign of weakness whatever. In November last some part of the new work in the north-west pier was observed to yield slightly, having then been finished about a month, and a slight movement was also detected in the south-west pier, certain of the old fissures extending themselves thereby into the new work. These were carefully watched, and it was believed that when time sufficient should have passed to allow the new work, which had been constructed in "lias" mortar, to solidify, they would be unimportant. On the 14th ult. a change was observed; cracks in the south-west and north-west piers began to enlarge, and it was determined at once to erect additional supports to the piers. Active measures were adopted. After the usual Sunday services on the 17th in the nave, which had been temporarily screened off, the church was taken possession of by the workmen, who have, with but little intermission, pursued their task by night and day down to the hour of the final catastrophe. It soon became evident that the heart or core of the piers was rotten; the task of sustaining on each pier a weight exceeding 1400 tons thrust forward the facing on every side, and when the masonry was restrained in one place by props and shores the restraint caused it to bulge on the adjoining surfaces faster than it was possible to apply remedies. The terrific storm of wind on Wednesday night caused these difficulties to increase with alarming rapidity, but the efforts of sixty workmen appeared still to offer some possibility of ultimate success, when at three and a half hours past midnight they quitted the building. On their return, how-

ever, after less than three hours' absence, it was found that the shores and braces exhibited many signs of suffering from the enormous strains to which they had been subjected. The force of men was increased, and various expedients to strengthen what was strained were put in requisition. The crushing and settlement of the south-west pier had caused a serious pressure on the top of the south-east and north-west piers; the entire separation of the church walls from the western supports of the tower had become evident; heavy stones burst out and fell; the core of the south-west pier poured out, crushed to powder; and the workmen were cleared out one. Not more than a quarter of an hour later the tower and spire fell to the floor with but little noise, forming a mass of near 6000 tons of ruin in the centre of the church, and carrying with it about 20 feet in length of the end of the nave, and the same of the transepts and choir. The spire, in its fall, at first inclined slightly to the south-west, and then sank gently into the centre of the building. The appearance of the fall was that of a large ship quietly but rapidly foundering at sea.

The cathedral has been subject to many changes. The original cathedral was founded and the building completed towards the close of the eleventh century. In the year 1114 it was injured by fire, and, though restored, it was entirely destroyed by a second fire in the year 1186. Bishop Seffrid is said by some historians to have built the church from its foundations. Be that as it may, it is agreed that his building is the nucleus of the existing cathedral. It consisted of the nave with its single aisles, the centre arcade, with its lower tower and transept, and of the choir. Its architecture shows the marks of many periods. The lateral towers, up to the second tier, belong to the original church; that facing the south exhibits four elegant examples of early Norman arches; the arches in the third tier are of the tall, lancet shape. The central tower was begun by Bishop Nevill in the year 1222. The spire was raised about the year 1387. It is the central tower and spire that have perished.



## OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

THE charming "Domino Noir," admirably played, is now the sole attraction at the Royal Italian Opera, which, thanks to the influence of Auber's delightful music, is crowded every evening.

At Her Majesty's Theatre Mr. Vincent Wallace's "Amber Witch" was to have been produced on Thursday. The performances at this strangely-regulated establishment now take place only four times a week, it being found necessary to close the house every Wednesday and Friday throughout Lent. It has been asked why, if Mr. E. T. Smith thinks fit to observe Lent at Her Majesty's Theatre, he neglects it both at Drury Lane and at the Alhambra? The explanation of the apparent anomaly is to be found, we believe, not in any Puseyistic notions entertained by the spirited proprietor, but in this simple fact, that the ancient license granted to the "Opera House" forbids performances of any kind on the two Lenten fast-days. This same license (a curious document in many respects) gives the lessee special permission to hold masquerades, a kind of entertainment which in the days of Handel, our first great operatic impresario, was fashionable and "by no means vulgar." There is not much abstinence in Lent nowadays; but we are glad that at other seasons of the year the director of Her Majesty's Theatre abstains from getting up masked balls.

The success of the Monday Popular Concerts cannot well increase. Whenever they take place the St. James's Hall is crowded, and occasionally—especially on the Beethoven nights—some hundreds of applicants for admission have to be "turned away from the doors," as the phrase goes. The directors are not so impolite as that, but they are unable to find places for a great many who are most anxious to hear the quartets (led at present by Viextemps), the duets for violin and piano, and the piano solos—executed alternately by Miss Arabella Goddard and Mr. Charles Hallé. At the last concert but one the sonata of Beethoven dedicated to Count Waldstein (op. 53) was performed. The theme of six notes which, according to the Russian critic, M. Lenz (the author of "Beethoven et ses trois styles"), "pursues the listener like a gadfly," in the hands of Mr. Hallé stung the audience into enthusiasm. We were unfortunate enough not to hear Miss Arabella Goddard play Beethoven's last sonata (op. 111) at the concert of Feb. 25; but we shall not willingly lose the opportunity of hearing this admirable pianist perform at the next concert, in company with M. Viextemps, the beautiful and now thoroughly popular "Kreutzer Sonata." At present, whenever the Kreutzer Sonata is performed at the Monday Popular Concerts, the audience applaud each movement as formerly they would only have applauded a ballad by a third-rate composer.

"Merrily, merrily over the Snow," Schloesser's celebrated song, arranged as a brilliant piece for the pianoforte by T. Mauss (Boosey and Sons). Is this song of Schloesser's really celebrated? If so, is it at all original? However that may be, Herr Mauss has turned the tune into a pianoforte solo which, like all his compositions, is well written, and which is showy without being over difficult. "Le Corsaire," galop brillant pour le piano (same composer, same publishers), is, however, superior as a piece, and has a more legitimate claim to be styled "brilliant."

Mr. Balfe's new opera of "Bianca, the Bravo's Bride," has furnished pianoforte-arrangers, transcribers, fantasy-makers, and dance-manufacturers with copious and rich materials for the exercise of their craft. First, and certainly not least welcome, are the "Favourite Airs," admirably (and conveniently) arranged as pianoforte solos, in three books, by the experienced hand of Radolph Nordmann (Boosey and Sons). This, as our contemporary the *Musical World* has well pointed out, presents both the readiest and the pleasantest means of becoming thoroughly acquainted with the beauties of an operatic work; and, in the instance of "Bianca," the superfluous elaborations and difficulties of the orchestral score have been most skilfully modified by the arranger, without altering the composer's harmonies, or otherwise interfering with his design. "Three Gems," from the same opera, have been treated by Mr. Brinley Richards, one of the most elegant of "arrangers." The first is the graceful ballad, which its own expressive tune and Miss Louisa Pyne's exquisite singing have made so popular—Bianca's "Power of Love," in short—"Twas he, my only thought." The second is the animated song of "Gold rules the world." The third and last is "What sunshine bright," the vocal brilliancy of which has been most happily caught and transferred to the keyboard.

"Fantaisie Brillante," by Jules Brissac (same publishers), is a clever and showy piece, constructed upon two of the most striking melodies in the opera, "Twas he, my only thought," and "Glorious wine."

"A Brilliant Fantasia," by G. A. Osborne (same publishers), trenches on other ground. How greatly Mr. Osborne excels in this kind of writing, what a skilful pianist and what a practised musician he is, our readers need scarcely be reminded. His utmost care has, seemingly, been bestowed upon the fantasia before us, one of the most agreeable and striking points in which is the very happy use he has made of the broad phrase of melody ("From my childhood didst thou pray me"), which Miss Pyne delivers in the grand duet with the Duke, in the third act of the opera.

"Fantasia de Boudoir," by M. Kube (same publishers), is perhaps second to none of the foregoing in interest. Three of the most popular motifs—"He was my only thought," "Glorious wine," and "What sunshine bright" (the theme of the rondo finale)—are knitted together with the grace and facility peculiar to Herr Kube. This boudoir fantasia, moreover, flattering as it is to the pianist, has the advantage of being unusually accommodating to the fingers. "Galop Brillant" for the piano, by the same expert arranger (same publishers), is a thoroughly honest and vigorous transcription of the galop in the last act. Add to these the "Bianca Polka," the "Bianca Galop," the "Bianca Quadrille," and the "Bianca Waltz," by Henri Laurent (same publishers), all effectively written.

"Notre Dame," Romance for the Piano, by Emile Berger (Boosey and Sons), is an extremely attractive little piece, illustrating, as it were, in music a story of devotion. We have the "Anselus," supposed to be accompanied on the organ; the "Ave Maria," and the "Priere a la Vierge." The themes are by Pergolesi, but the treatment, which is both ingenious and happy, is M. Emile Berger's own.

"Toujours gai"—Galop Brillant pour le Piano—Joseph Ascher (Boosey and Sons)—is one of this clever and fashionable pianist's most animated productions, and thoroughly bears out the significance of its title. It is appropriately ascribed to M. Leopold de Meyer, who, we are very glad to hear, has almost entirely recovered from his recent severe illness.

Schubert's "Serenade" and Schubert's "Ave Maria," by Kuke (Boosey and Sons). These are arrangements or transcriptions of two of Schubert's most beautiful lieder, in the form of short, brilliant, and moderately difficult "caprices." Four more are announced—"The Adieu," "The Wanderer," "The Praise of Tears," and "Thine is my Heart."

NOVELISTS AND DRAMATISTS.—In the Court of Common Pleas, on Monday, judgment was given in the case, "Reade v. Conquest," in which the question was raised whether dramatising a novel without the consent of the author is a breach of copyright. "Never Too Late to Mend" is the work referred to in the present case, which had been dramatised at the Grecian Theatre. Mr. Justice Williams, in delivering the opinion of the Court, laid it down that statutable copyright was the exclusive liberty of printing or otherwise multiplying copies of a work; that the representation of a dramatic piece on the stage is not a publication; that copyright in published works exists only by statute; and, consequently, that judgment must be given for the defendant.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE CASE.—Proceedings have been taken in the Court of Common Pleas, Upper Canada, in the case of Anderson, the fugitive slave. He was brought up on a writ of habeas corpus, the object being to obtain his release on the ground of the informality of his original commitment. The prisoner was discharged on technical grounds, the writ of habeas corpus being definitive, and not expressly charging him with murder. The result was received with satisfaction.

## BRITISH INSTITUTION.

IT is usual to commence a notice of the British Institution with a complaint that the exhibition is not so good as that of the Academy. Were it otherwise, most accounts of the Academy exhibition would, of course, begin with the remark that it was no better than that of the British Institution. A more just charge is much against the "British" when it is stated that the pictures submitted to its committee are often absurdly and unfairly hung. No one seems to know how this hanging committee is composed—whether of artists, of amateurs, or simply of the patrons of the institution, who, in many cases, are neither the one nor the other. All that is certain in the matter is, that many of the best exhibitors are dissatisfied with the positions assigned to their pictures—not on the ground, merely, that the most conspicuous places are not given to them, but because they are badly hung with reference to the pictures surrounding them. There was a time (we are told) when the hanging at the British Institution left nothing to be desired; but now artists seem to have lost all confidence in those mysterious and, for the most part, unknown persons to whom the management of the place is intrusted; and many of our most celebrated painters, who, under other circumstances, would doubtless contribute occasionally to its annual collection, now refrain from doing so altogether. The arrangement of the pictures this year has been so remarkably unsatisfactory that Mr. Frith (not a contributor himself) has thought fit to write a letter on the subject to the *Times*, in which he suggests, with much reason, that the hanging of the works should, in future, be confided to some known, competent, and responsible persons—such as artists of reputation, of whom a certain number should be members of the Society of British Artists or Academicians. We have not heard that there is any likelihood of this suggestion being acted upon.

One of the most clever and striking pictures in the present exhibition is Mr. John Gilbert's view of the interior of Rembrandt's studio. Here the artist has chosen precisely the sort of subject suited to his particular genius; for genius—that is to say, facile, inborn power—of a certain kind Mr. Gilbert undoubtedly possesses. His scenes from Shakespeare and Cervantes, such as he has painted only too often, do not, it is true, give us any great notion of his humorous powers, or of his perception of character; but he has more than a talent for the mere representation of externals and for picturesque grouping. The figure of Rembrandt in the said "Rembrandt's Studio" seems to us well posed and effectively painted in all respects. The chief personage (whose characteristic features and attitude, as handed down to us by himself, have been well caught by the modern artist) is standing before his easel executing the portrait of a prim, quaint-looking old lady, stiffly but picturesquely attired, whose similitude might have appeared in one of Rembrandt's own pictures. The various objects of art and other materials for study—vases, articles of costume, old armour, &c.—are admirably rendered, and in the most effective disorder.

Mr. F. Wyburd exhibits a charming picture of a tender, saintlike young girl walking in an Italian or Tyrolean churchyard, and a very graceful and expressive figure of Undine.

Mr. Calderon, in his "Retreat from Moscow," has depicted an incident such as might have been caused by a great many things besides the calamities of the "grand armée" in Russia, and which by them would scarcely have been occasioned at all. A soldier, desperately wounded, is taking leave of a lady at the gate of a convent. It must be presumed that she has just taken the veil, and this may somehow be connected with the battle of Borodino and all the rest of it. But, whatever the story may be, the subject is certainly well painted, as far as execution is concerned, especially the figure of the wounded soldier.

One of the best works in the room is decidedly Mr. Goodall's reduction of his "Improvisatore" in the midst of a group of Italian fishermen, exhibited the year before last at the Royal Academy. The original is well known, and has been universally admired. The diminished copy is fully worthy of it. Indeed, a more faithful reproduction on a small scale—preserving all the spirit, and without losing one merit of detail, could scarcely be imagined.

Mr. G. Smith's "Rustic Breakfast" is remarkable for its exquisite finish; but it is in all respects a charming little work.

The subject of Mr. Barwell's "Anxious Moment" is well chosen and equally well treated. All the interest of the spectator is centred in two personages—a benevolent-looking doctor, with an expression of serious doubt on his countenance, and a young woman, who, half in hope, half in despair, is grasping him by the hand, and looking eagerly into his face as she waits for his decision as to the fate of a patient whom he has just left in an adjoining room. The story is told plainly, forcibly, and with true dramatic power.

Mr. H. Weigall, who is chiefly known as a truthful and effective portrait-painter, has a picture called "Consultation," in which the consultants are two graceful young ladies, one of whom, dressed in white, is reclining in a chair, while the other, attired in black, is standing up by the side of the fireplace. The whole of the background (especially the objects on the mantelpiece, with the side light falling upon them) is admirably painted. The girls are simply what we suppose they are intended to be—interesting.

We have already noticed Mr. Barnes's card-sharper scene (of which we last week published an engraving). Of the other character-pictures Mr. Erskine Nicoll's Irish scenes are among the most remarkable.

Our best and (by a long interval) second-best animal-painters are both represented at the British Institution. Sir Edwin Landseer's offering is a picture of a goat lying bound on a burning altar. The goat's head is as fine as anything Sir Edwin ever painted. Mr. Ansell's work is large and staring—the subject being Spanish mules and oxen drinking at a trough.

The exhibition contains an abundance of landscapes, many of them very clever, and of which we may have something to say on another occasion.

THE DUCHY OF CORNWALL.—The accounts of the Duchy of Cornwall, the inheritance of the Prince of Wales, for the year 1860, have been laid before Parliament. The receipts during the year, from rents and other sources, amounted to £58,625—above £2000 more than in the previous year. The expenses of management were £6113; repairs and permanent improvements took £1949; charities, superannuations, and law charges, £1779; salaries of officers of the Stannary Court, £1097; property and other taxes, £1717; allowing, as the result, a sum of £45,073 to be appropriated for payments to, and investments for, his Royal Highness—a larger sum by above £4000 than in the previous year was paid to the Prince's trustees and treasurer.

PAROCHIAL NEGLECT.—A monstrous case of parochial negligence was brought under the notice of the magistrate at Thames Police Court on Saturday. It was stated by a poor woman living at Ratcliff that her child had been found dead in bed, upon which an inquest had been held, and a warrant issued for its burial. Too poor, however, to purchase a coffin, application was made to the parish for one, which was refused. Consequently there, in their single apartment, have been living, eating, and sleeping a father, mother, and two children, with the dead body still unburied, for a fortnight.

MURDER OF AN ENGLISH CLOWN AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—The *Levant Herald* says:—"A cowardly murder has been committed near the Teké, under circumstances of such trivial provocation as give to the crime an unusual degree of guiltiness. Three masquers—one of them a woman—were swaggering noisily down the street in the quarter in question, as Howard, one of the English clowns at Soulier's Circus, and some friends were leaving a café in the neighbourhood. The domineering ruffians, with whom curdled license passed for wit, addressed some remark of the former sort to Howard and his companions, to which the Englishman promptly replied. From 'chaffing' the word play soon grew to worse, and the masquers still coming off second best, one of them sidled up to poor Howard and stabbed him deep in the abdomen. The ruffians then fled, but pursuit being made the woman was seized; her male companions succeeded in making good their escape down a couple of the narrow and dark lanes in the neighbourhood. Howard died during the night. The assassin is said to be an Italian known to the police. One of his associates, a tinker named Marco, is in custody."

## DISASTROUS GALE.

ONE of the severest gales that has visited this country for many years swept over the metropolis and many parts of the provinces on Wednesday night, and continued to rage with more or less fury until Friday morning, last week. Accounts from various districts teem with particulars of damage done to life and property, and some of the casualties are of a very unusual character.

In London many of the houses were shaken to their foundations, and much damage was done to property. On Thursday evening (when the storm was severest in London) the north wing of the Crystal Palace, which was used as a store, was blown down. The building itself is uninjured, not a single pane of glass having been broken in it. But the destruction of the north wing was so complete that only a huge pile of ruins—broken columns, shattered glass, and fragments of painted woodwork—remained to mark the spot where it had stood. A gunpowder explosion could not possibly have shattered the place more effectually. The woodwork was broken in small pieces, the cast-iron columns were broken up like glass, and the tie-rods twisted and torn into every shape. Fortunately, there was nothing in this wing but the empty pens used at the late poultry show and a number of garden-seats.

The roof of a house in the Clapham-road fell in, and occasioned the loss of three lives. Many stacks of chimneys fell to the ground, in one case causing the death of a child. A very large portion of the gigantic picture of Venice at the Surrey Gardens was destroyed. The Church of St. Mary, Lambeth, adjoining the Archbishop's palace, was much damaged by part of the leads and the roof being carried away.

Among the most severe sufferers by the gale are Messrs. Curtis and Harvey, the well-known gunpowder-manufacturers, at Hounslow, for at their manufactories at Hutton, about two miles from that place, five buildings, used as "green-mills," were destroyed by explosions. Fortunately, owing to timely hints being taken of the probable severity of the storm, precautions were used, and the workmen removed from the buildings before the explosion took place.

A portion of the spire of Spring Grove Church, near Isleworth, was carried away by the violence of the wind; and at one house in the same locality the lead was torn from the roof and taken a considerable distance.

At Gravesend the weather was the most violent known for many years past. Several boats and ships were driven from their stations, and in some instances boats were found keel upwards below the town. All down the river much havoc was made among the shipping and small craft.

A correspondent, writing from Plymouth on Thursday week, says:—

A heavy gale of wind blew here from the south-west last evening; it began about eight p.m., and lasted till after midnight. About eleven o'clock the French brig *Augustine*, belonging to Mr. Theodore Dubignon, of Nantes, from that port to this, with 700 quarters of wheat, consigned to Mr. Bowden, which arrived at midday yesterday, parted her cable and ran on the Batten Shoal, where she broke up. The captain and two of the seamen were picked up. The remainder of the crew, three in number, and a hand lately shipped, were drowned. This morning not a vestige of the vessel remains beyond a few floating planks.

The hurricane blew down the telegraphic wires near the Bristol station, and the down mail-train ran into and became entangled in the wires. The passengers walked on to the Bristol station and were forwarded by special train. The mails were delayed about eight hours, and did not reach Plymouth until half-past eight.

A heavy gale from the westward blew over Southampton. A Jersey vessel at the quay was damaged during the night. Much damage was done.

The beautiful spire of Chichester Cathedral, together with its tower and supporting arches, fell in with a crash on Thursday afternoon. We give the particulars of this accident in another column.

At Worcester a tree fell upon one of the tollhouses outside the city, completely crushing in the roof. A woman in bed narrowly escaped. Trees in hundreds were blown down, and a great number of chimney-stacks and walls. At Evesham a stack of chimneys fell upon a house, crushing through the roof into a room where a woman was sleeping, but who escaped with a fright.

The city of Gloucester felt the full severity of the gale. Besides trees thrown down all over the Vale of Gloucester, up which the wind rushed with great velocity, the ships in the Berkeley Canal and Gloucester Docks were damaged, and the railway station belonging to the Great Western and South Wales companies, was almost demolished.

At Northampton a portion of the house of a Mr. Groom fell in, and, with the exception of two female servants who slept in another part of the house, the whole of the family were buried beneath the ruins. However, in about three hours Mr. and Mrs. Groom, both of whom were severely injured, were extricated from their perilous position. Two children were also got out comparatively little hurt, but the nurse, with an infant about twelve months old, was dead. At Reading the gale was very strong, and the uprooting of trees and the blowing down of chimneys were incidents of frequent occurrence. A correspondent says that the spire of Salisbury Cathedral is out of the perpendicular, and some anxiety is felt for its safety in consequence. From Liverpool we learn that on Thursday evening the wind gradually increased in violence until about nine o'clock in the evening, when it blew a perfect hurricane from the south. The damage done to shipping was very great, owing to the manner in which the vessels knocked about in the Mersey. At Weston-super-Mare a considerable portion of the spire of the new church was blown down, and the material falling through the roof of the building reduced it almost to a ruin. The storm raged terribly in Warwickshire too. The anemometer at Lloyd's marked thirty-six pounds pressure on the square foot on Thursday evening week at half-past six o'clock.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH BY POISON.—The crew of the *Boxer*, of Colchester, lying in the Tyne, have had a narrow escape from an awful death. The master and men, it seems, had partaken of a pudding, and were shortly after attacked by dangerous symptoms. The cook, who made the pudding, had taken the flour for it from a locker, and, on searching the locker, a parcel of arsenic was discovered. The parcel had been found in the cabin, and the mate, imagining that it was flour, had put it into the flour locker. The cook, on going for the flour for the pudding, had thrust his scoop into the parcel; but, not liking the contents, he had withdrawn the scoop, and had taken his flour for the pudding from the usual source. Some particles of the arsenic had adhered to the scoop and got mixed up with the flour, and had occasioned all the mischief. The poison had been on board the ship two years, and was the remaining quantity of a parcel sent aboard to destroy worms in the ship's bottom. The men are out of danger.

CHARGE AGAINST MR. LAING.—A serious charge has been made against Mr. Samuel Laing, the new Finance Minister for India. In 1852, as one of a company, he entered into a contract with a Mr. George Wythes, of Reigate, to construct a railway from Hamilton to Toronto for the sum of £328,000. The railway cost £418,672. It is charged that, after Mr. Laing had ceased to be a director or a shareholder, he went to the board meetings and advocated the claim of Mr. Wythes, and that Mr. Laing was all this time, while contracting with Mr. Wythes, and while presiding over the meeting of the Great Western shareholders and getting them to adopt the Hamilton and Toronto line, the partner of Mr. Wythes in this very contract. These statements are made in the report of a committee of investigation into the affairs of the Great Western of Canada.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA V. DAY.—Application was made to Vice-Chancellor Stuart on Wednesday for an injunction to restrain Messrs. Day and Son, lithographers, from printing what were termed "spurious notes" of the Hungarian nation. The Emperor of Austria, through his Ambassador, was plaintiff; and Louis Kosuth appears as a co-defendant. As set forth in the bill, 100,000,000 florins in nominal value of these notes were completely, or nearly, manufactured, and were intended to be sold or otherwise brought into circulation in Hungary; that this was done without the sanction of the plaintiff, the Emperor of Austria; was a violation of his rights, and calculated to prove detrimental to his State and subjects. It was also represented that the notes were designed to be used for revolutionary purposes. The injunction was granted.



## LAW AND CRIME.

## THE YELVERTON CASE.

A TRIAL which has for some days past been proceeding in the Court of Common Pleas in Dublin claims precedence, in point of interest, over legal matter more immediately domestic. It is an action brought by a Mr. Thelwall to recover a sum of £250 odd for necessities supplied to defendant's wife. The defendant is the Hon. Major Yelverton, heir apparent to the Viscount of Avonmore.

By his pleas the defendant denies that the lady to whom the necessities are alleged to have been supplied is his lawful wife. The lady, whom for the present, at least, we will designate Mrs. Yelverton, is therefore interested in the highest degree in the success of the plaintiff, who, indeed, has been induced by her to bring the action in order to try the important question raised by defendant's conduct and by his plea. On the other hand, the defendant has in the decision of the matter an interest far greater than the amount of the debt, inasmuch as since his alleged marriage he had contracted another. Therefore the decision of this question of liability for a debt will collaterally declare whether or not the Hon. Major Yelverton has committed bigamy. If so, it follows as a further consequence that his second marriage is invalid. Miss Teresa Longworth, afterwards Mrs. Yelverton the first, is a lady of family, with an income of £200 per annum, and casually made the acquaintance of the Major one night upon the passage by steam from Boulogne to Folkestone. The two sat side by side, and the Major gallantly offered the lady a share of his plaid to cover her knees. They appear to have conversed on animal magnetism and the odic force. They parted, and for twelve months after there was no correspondence between them. At the expiration of that period the lady, being then in Italy, desiring to send a letter to a relative in Albania, inclosed it, by the advice of her banker, in a communication to the Major, then at Malta, requesting him to post the inclosure there. This was the commencement of a correspondence from which we shall shortly have occasion to offer some curious extracts, and which, aided by some powerful attraction which Miss Longworth considered as odic force, but which is not always dignified by that mysterious title, ultimately drew the lady to attend as a nurse in the hospital of Galata while the Major was serving with his regiment in the Crimea. They soon met, and the Major proposed marriage, with the condition of secrecy, on account of a promise said to have been made by him to his brother to marry only a lady able to discharge his debts. Miss Longworth declined the terms of the proposed union, but the friendship between the parties continued. In 1857 the lady, being in Edinburgh, was visited by the Major, who again urged upon her a secret marriage, and explained to her the facility afforded for the project by the law of Scotland. She still refused. He read to her the marriage service, and claimed her as his wife upon the ground that sufficient ceremonial had been performed by such reading. Miss Longworth, nevertheless, declined to live with him as his wife, and fled to Wales to escape his importunities. While she was there he frequently wrote to her, and at length prevailed on her to cross to Ireland in order to be married by a Roman Catholic priest. To this she at length consented, promising secrecy, and they were married, according to the forms of the Roman Catholic Church, by the Rev. Mr. Mooney, parish priest, at Rostrevor, Ireland. Miss Longworth, it may be here mentioned, was a Roman Catholic. Whether the Major was or alleged himself to be of that faith will probably be one of the points at issue in the case, as will be seen by the concluding portion of the following report:—

At this point of her examination Mrs. Yelverton suddenly became much confused and agitated. She trembled violently—her eyes were steadfastly fixed on a gentleman who occupied a seat immediately opposite the witness-box. She fell back exhausted and fainting. The greatest compassion was felt for her by all present, and restoratives had to be procured and used before she appeared to recover. Plaintiff's solicitor communicated with Mr. Whiteside, who said—My Lord, I understand the agitation of the witness is caused by the presence of the defendant. I would, therefore, request that your Lordship would ask the defendant to withdraw. The Chief Justice—I cannot order him to do so. His presence is a matter entirely of taste and feeling. Mr. Brewster—Of course the defendant will withdraw. The defendant then got up to leave, but delayed some time, the agitation of the witness continuing. A Juror said—We are of opinion, my Lord, that the defendant ought to withdraw, seeing that his presence discomposes the witness. The defendant then withdrew, but the witness was unable to answer Mr. Whiteside for some moments, owing to her continued trembling. Mr. Brewster, cross-examining witness, said—Did you ever tell the Rev. Mr. Mooney, at Rostrevor, that Major Yelverton was a Protestant?—No. Now, I put it to you, did you ever tell him so under the seal of confession? (Expression of great disapprobation.) Witness—I will answer the question if your Lordship wishes. Chief Justice—I have no wish on the subject. You may answer it if you please. Mr. Brewster pressed the question. Sergeant Sullivan—The question is now pressed, my Lord. I will release the seal as far as I can. Witness—I have no objection to answer the question. I never did say so, in confession or otherwise (loud and prolonged applause in court). Mr. Brewster—Well, my Lord, if this is a court of justice—Sergeant Sullivan—But when such a question as that is put. Chief Justice—I confess I have never before heard that question put. Mr. Brewster—Admit that, but in a desperate case—Chief Justice—It may be a desperate case, but I never heard such a question put. Mr. Brewster—I would not ask such a question of a clergyman. Chief Justice—If a clergyman is asked what was told him under the seal of confession the rule is that he is not pressed if he declines to answer; and I think the same rule applies to penitents.

On Mrs. Yelverton's marriage she requested from her husband a half of the plaid which had originally served as their mutual introduction. After the alleged marriage Mrs. Yelverton agreed to go abroad with her husband, by whom she was left at Bordeaux in consequence of his leave of absence having expired. He shortly afterwards wrote to her:—

"Poor little Toot-toot, left alone. How does she get on? I thought of her all night when awake, and dreamt of her when asleep. Arrived at 5-13 matin. Had a bath, and having still a quarter of an hour write to small Toot-toot. Did I come André get the key? I turned it in the error—were your dresses, intending to ask her to keep it until she left the rooms or brought up your dresses, but when I sent my pocket and discovered it about five o'clock, when I sent it back with the address she gave attached—'M. Angouleme, I think. Dearest small Toot-toot, you must get well and strong, and we'll have a lark next autumn yet, and have no more false alarms (or real ones). I am very miserable at leaving you, especially in such a weak state. Next time we have to part we must both start to travel in different directions, for the necessity of doing something is naturally a relief to the mind. I began to cry again when in the railway to the amazement of a bonne and two pretty girls in her charge—one of the latter, a small fairy about twelve years old, found me out in the fact, and announced it, at the same time wanting to console me. Good-by, carissima mia. Write or get Madame to do so. Sempres a te. Mille bades.—CARLO."

Mrs. Yelverton, being left in a situation which only the fact of her marriage could render unequivocal, wrote thus appealingly to her husband:—

Dear Carlo,—You asked my forgiveness and received it without a word of reproach. There is no need of excuses or disguising of facts which medical men who have attended me have confirmed. Neither was the malady a slight one, as you are trying to persuade yourself. My sister is witness, and you may be convinced by coming to see the wreck I am now. I shall not die, as you say; she has saved me. But it is somewhat hard to lose health, eyesight, and every beauty in the prime of life. Du reste, if these my sufferings, for your sake, have not endeared me more, do not think there is any more obligation imposed upon you; let it be forgotten—*requiescat in pace* (it will be remembered in both our days of reckoning, and that is enough). As to the other business, I do not see any other course than to tell your mother the truth as you had proposed doing. Surely she will forgive and help you. She has a mother's heart and a clever head. Do not, in the hope of patching matters up, throw away our last chance of united happiness. Events have rushed so swift to a crisis it is not possible to stem the tide. We must cling fast together, or we shall be lost to each other. Our past cannot be reacted in the future. Do not, for the sake of a mere chimera, give up a real lifelong enjoyment. You have already broken the spirit of your promise: what is the bare letter good for? I do not ask you to rush on to immediate ruin, but through my friends I will keep the secret for your sake, and through my friends I can never hear. I am not about the honour of seeing your family, but I must be protected from all possibility of another Bordeaux exposé. Imputations in open courts upon my fair fame as a woman are not to be borne. I need not quote "Cesar's wife"—every man must feel the same—and I am sure that were there a man in the case you would not let him go unpunished. You will recollect that I told you before I consented to keeping the marriage secret that this, and this alone, was the only sacrifice I could not willingly make for you. That vile thing wanted to make a claim on the plea that you had deceived her, and introduced an improper person into her house, in order to abandon her. Imagine, if you can, the misery I have gone through. Think of your own sister in such a position. You say you never think—that is a fib. In your present position it is positive you think a great deal; but you fear to disclose your thoughts. May I guess? You think, perhaps, that it would be better for us to keep apart for a long, long time, until circumstances remedy themselves. This may be wise, but so very hard; even now time hangs like an incubus upon me. Tempus fugit seems a fallacy. I should be tempting you to come over, only I am so very ugly that you could not love to look at me. It is strange you do not miss me more. We have never lived together long sufficiently. If we could remain together for six months, then you would. You are a very good Carlo to write me often; it is the only pleasure left me. I cannot see to read or write; my days are so long and dreary; my nights restless and feverish; your letters the only point I have to look forward to; so pray think of me. I often lie awake from daylight waiting for the postman. I will seal my letter; but I had already taken the precaution about signing. . . . Please write directly. . . . I feel so nervous and anxious to know what your mother will say. I trust it was she who opened the letter. Any of your sisters would not dare; so, after all, perhaps, there is not much harm done; but I shall be glad when you go. Carlo mio, think, at least, of the happiness we have known together; so sincere, so unbounded. Is there any other joy in the world to be compared to reciprocated love? How everything on earth became indifferent but our two selves. You said I was the dearest, small Toot-toot that ever lived, and I thought there was not in the wide, wide world another Carlo like mine.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

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THE LONDON GAZETTE.

To this letter, said the counsel for the plaintiff, she got no answer. She heard he was at Leith. She went there and met with his brother. She appealed to him to declare their marriage. He said he was a ruined man, and asked her to go to Australia. She refused. He then said, if she went to Glasgow, he might manage to come to her. He left her. On the 26th of June he went through the ceremony of marriage with the widow of the celebrated Professor Edward Forbes of Edinburgh. Mr. Yelverton still enjoyed the respect of the world. Women of fortune and rank refused to believe the defendant's lying story. She had, by every means in her power, from time to time, sought to bring him face to face with her. Mr. Thelwall had known her as the wife of Major Yelverton. He supported her, and he now brought Major Yelverton to the bar of justice to compel him to discharge this duty of social life. They had, under the hand of the priest, the certificate of the marriage, and he (Sergeant Sullivan) was prepared to submit it in evidence.

With reference to this certificate of marriage, and to the ceremony itself, a strange scene took place on the examination of Father Mooney, the officiating priest, who was called as witness for the plaintiff, and who, after admitting—the word may seem strange, but is here applicable—that both parties attended at his chapel, knelt before the altar, that he read the service, asked the parties respectively whether they would accept each other as man and wife, denied all knowledge of having seen a ring, but saw "him" (Yelverton) "just turning his fingers round on her fingers":—

Did you put questions of that sort to them? The question I put to him was, what was his religious belief? He said, "I am not much of anything." I asked him what did he mean by that, and he said, "Are you a Roman Catholic?" "I am not," he said. "What are you?" "I said, and then the lady said, 'Don't mind. He is not confirmed yet. He went with me frequently to places of Catholic worship, but he is not confirmed yet.' I said, 'What are you?' and he said, 'I am a Protestant Catholic.' It was before he said this that she interposed—Are you sure the word 'Catholic' was used? I am sure—Are you sure it was used by him? I am—And you are sure it was used by her? I had not the least doubt of her being a Catholic. Was it after that you put the question, 'Will you take this woman to be thy wife?' Allow me to tell. Answer first, was it after what you have stated that they agreed to be husband and wife? Yes; they agreed to be husband and wife.—At the altar, after that? Yes.—And you were within the rails? I was.—Are you sure the word 'Catholic' was used? I am—Are you also sure the word 'Protestant' was used? Protestant Catholic.—But 'Protestant' was used? It was.

The witness received £10 from Mrs. Yelverton. This, he acknowledged, was not the usual fee for a renewal of contract, as he terms the ceremony performed. He was then asked, in cross-examination, whether he had made any entry in the register of marriage in reference to the occurrence, and replied:—

No entry of that kind, and the lady would not allow me to make an entry. She asked me to enter it in my private register. I told her I had no register but a public one, and she said that would expose their secret.

Chief Justice—And it was not entered? It was not entered.

Nevertheless, he had subsequently given Mrs. Yelverton a certificate of her lawful marriage, a fact which he thus attempted to explain:—

The reason was this: I received a letter from the lady telling me that she expected the arrival of a little stranger, asking me for a certificate; and I gave it for the purpose of proving that she was validly married, and that her child might be baptised legitimately. That was the reason; and if I had thought it would have been used for any other purpose than that for which I gave it—to have the child baptised legitimately—to satisfy the foreign clergyman into whose hands I thought it was to fall—if I thought it was to be used for this purpose, I would have cut off my right hand sooner than have given it.—Before you go back to Rostrevor answer me a question: Is it the practice, or is it usual, for Catholic priests to certify falsehoods under their hands? No. You may go down now.

The evidence of the rev. gentleman is stated to have been received with repeated hisses from his auditors. The next witness was a justice of the peace who deposed to having, at a dinner, bantered the Rev. Mooney as to "the scrape he had got into" about this marriage. This witness says:—

He intimated to me, in a very significant manner, that he had made them man and wife. He said he had incurred no ecclesiastical censure. To take a rise out of him, and at his particular instance, I told him what was the law on the subject of marrying a Protestant and a Catholic. He feared that he would be transported.

A member of the Scotch Bar spoke as to the marriage law of his country, and deposed that a mutual consent was sufficient by such law, without the presence of a third party, to constitute such marriage. An acknowledgment of such consent is an acknowledgement of the marriage, and, moreover, habit and repute is in itself sufficient. Now, even defendant's own counsel, in his opening speech, admitted (we quote his own words):

The Major travelled with her in Scotland as his wife, and wrote both their names in the book which he had produced; but it was remarkable that he never wrote their full title if they were really married—namely, "The Honourable Mr. and Mrs. Yelverton." It was an absolute necessity that he should have represented her as his wife, for they would never have been received in the hotels or anywhere in Scotland if it were supposed that they were not married people.

Therefore, if the Scotch barrister's statement of the law be correct, there can be but one opinion as to the result of the trial. If a man commits an act simply because it is impossible for him to do otherwise, he must accept, by the same rule, results which it is impossible to avoid. "Yelverton's" counsel, who styled the defendant thus abruptly himself, opened for the defence with unusual candour, utterly repudiating any attempt at his justification, and performing simply an advocate's duty in begging the impartial consideration of the jury on the facts of the two alleged marriages (Irish and Scotch), intimating the line of defence to be the illegality of the Irish by reason of one or both the parties being Protestants, and the non-compliance with the exigencies of the Scotch law with respect to the case put forward by the plaintiff. The case will not be completed in time for us to record the verdict in this week's impression.

In the Common Pleas, on an action brought by Mr. Charles Reade, the novelist, against the proprietor of the Grecian Saloon for infringement of copyright in representing a dramatized version of "Never Too Late to Mend," Mr. Justice Williams decided that such a representation is not an infringement of an author's right. The chief authority for this decision was the statutory definition in the 5 and 6 Vic., cap. 45, of copyright as "the sole and exclusive liberty of printing or otherwise multiplying copies."

## POLICE.

Henry Windsor, a boy aged thirteen, was brought before Mr. Yardley, charged with stealing a silver watch, value £5, the property of Mr. Thomas Isaac Ball, mission schoolmaster, of No. 44, Wellclose-square.

The prisoner entered himself as a pupil at the school on Thursday week. On the following afternoon Mr. Ball left his watch on the mantelpiece in the back school-room. Several boys stopped in the school-room to eat their dinners, and among them was the prisoner, who took advantage of the schoolmaster's absence to run away with the watch. The prisoner was soon after apprehended, and he then made a confession that he had stolen the watch and given it to another boy.

The prisoner—Yes; we got 8s. for it.

Inspector Denny, of the H Division, said the watch was sold to a woman. He knew where it was.

The father of the prisoner, a drover, said his son was a most incorrigible thief. He had done all he could to reclaim him, but all his efforts were fruitless.

Roche, the gaoler, said that the prisoner had been in a reformatory and escaped, and that he had been in custody four times for felonies.

The prisoner's father said he wished his son to go to sea.

Mr. Yardley—Honest boys are wanted for the sea service. It is probable I may send him to the reformatory school ship Cornwall. He is at present remanded until Monday.

## MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

NOTWITHSTANDING that the Bank of England has received an addition of about £200,000 to its stock of bullion, and that there is every prospect of a reduction in the value of money, the demand for accommodation this week has been steady, and scarcely any first class commercial bills have been done in Lombard-street under from 7½ to 8 per cent. In the Stock Exchange, as much as 9½ per cent has been paid for short-period accommodation.

We have no change of importance to notice in the value of Home Securities; but the market for them has been unsettled. Consols, for Money, have marked 91½; for Account, 91½. Reduced and New Three per Cents have been on 91½. Exchequer Bills, 6s. 10d.; Bank stock, 24s. to 25s.; Long Annuities, 15s. 1d. Indian Stocks, &c., have moved off slowly. The Old Stock has been 22½ to 24s. The New, 99½; the Scrip, 99½ to 100½; the Five and a Half per Cent Enforced Paper, 100 to 101½; Ditto, Five per Cent, 94 to 95. The Bonds have sold at 118s. to 120s. discount, and the Consols, 99½.

The Board of Trade returns state that the total value of our exports in 1860 was £135,812,417, against £130,411,829 in 1859—showing an increase of £5,400,588. Compared with 1858, the increase is £13,241,061, or nearly 10 per cent.

The reports of the different Marine Insurance Companies are, on the whole, satisfactory.

Advices from Shanghai state that there has been a reaction in the exchange of 14½ per cent. At Hong-Kong the quotation remained at 84.

A moderate business has been passing in Foreign Bonds, and prices generally have been fairly maintained.—Brazilian Five per Cents have realised 99½; Brazilian Four and a Half per Cents, 100½; ditto, 100½; Buenos Ayres Six per Cents, 94½; Mexican 5½; Peruvian Four and a Half per Cents, 99½; Portuguese Three per Cents, 46½; Russian Five per Cents, 104½; Spanish Three per Cents, 49½; ditto, New Deferred, 41½; ditto, Pasive, 18½; ditto, Certificates, 41½; Turkish New Six per Cents, 84½; ditto, Four per Cents, 29½; ditto, Dutch Two and a Half per Cents, 52½; and Dutch Four per Cents, 103½.

Joint stock Bank Shares have, on the whole, ruled steady; Bank of Egypt have been done at 18½; Bank of London, 52½; Chartered Bank, Australia, and China, 21; London and County, 24½; ditto; London Joint-stock, 28½; London and Westminster, 61½; New South Wales, 34½; Oriental, 48½; Ottoman, 17½; Union of London, 5½.

Colonial Government Securities have been rather extensively

dealt in, and prices have ruled firm:—Canada Six per Cents have marked 113½; New Brunswick Six per Cents, 106½; New South Wales Five per Cents, 187½ to 187¾; Nova Scotia Six per Cents, 106½; and Victoria Six per Cents, 107½.

In the value of Miscellaneous Securities no striking change has taken place.—Crystal Palace shares have sold at 29½; Electric Telegraph, 99 ex div.; English and Australian Copper, 38; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 70; Ditto, New, 35½; Red Sea and India Telegraph, 18; Royal Mail Steam, 49½.

A fair and active business has continued to be done in the market for Railway Securities, and prices generally speaking, have been fairly supported. The "calls" falling due in March amount to £268,501.

## METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN.—EXCHANGED.—During the present week the arrivals of English wheat upon our market, coastwise and by land carriage, have been on a very moderate scale. Good and fine samples have commanded a steady sale, at full prices; but low and damp parcels have ruled heavy, at late rates. A fair amount of business has been passing in foreign wheats, at full quotations. Fine barley has commanded quite as much money as of late, but other descriptions have been very inactive. We have no change to notice in the value of malt. The transactions in all kinds have been much restricted. Oats have realised extreme rates, and the value of both beans and peas have been well supported. The flour trade has continued in a healthy state.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 4s. to 68s.; ditto, white, 4s. to 71s.; grinding barley, 30s. to 33s.; distilling ditto, 27s. to 27½; rye, 31s. to 41s.; rye, 32s. to 37s.; malt, 36s. to 39s.; feed oats, 22s. to 25s.; potato distill, 28s. to 34s.; tick beans, 33s. to 41s.; grey peas, 37s. to 41s.; white ditto, 40s. to 45s.; pea carboys. Town-made flour, 41s. to 57s.; country marks, 40s. to 42s.; town households, 41s. to 48s. per 280lb.

CATTLE.—Moderate supplies of each kind of stock have been on offer this week, in somewhat improved condition. Generally speaking, the trade has ruled steady, and prices have had an upward tendency.—Beef, from 3s. 2d. to 3s.; mutton, 3s. 8d. to 6s.; veal, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 8d.; pork, 4s. to 4s. 10d. per cwt. to sink the offal. New Zealand mutton, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 8d.—The supplies of mutton are moderate, and the demand is steady.—Beef, from 3s. 2d. to 3s.; mutton, 3s. 8d. to 6s.; veal, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 8d.; pork, 4s. to 4s. 10d. per cwt. to sink the offal.

TEA.—The public sales held this week have gone off steadily, at full prices, the transactions are only moderate. By telegraph we learn that the shipments from China to Great Britain have amounted to 60,000,000lb.

SUGAR.—We have again to report extreme inactivity in the demand for nearly all kinds of raw sugar; nevertheless, no quotable change has taken place in prices. Refined goods have moved off heavily, at 49s. 6d. to 50s. per cwt. for common brown lump. Crushed and pieces continue steady. The stock is 51,000 tons.

COFFEE.—Good bold native Ceylon has realised 61s. per cwt. Plantation kinds are quite as dear as last week. Other coffees support late rates. The stock is 6303 tons, against 6147 tons in 1859.

MOLASSES.—West India qualities are in moderate request, at from 17s. to 20s. per cwt.

RICE.—A few parcels of Arracan have changed hands, at 10s. 6d. per cwt. The stock is 53,441 tons, against 55,997 tons in 1859.

PROVISIONS.—Good and fine qualities of butter are in fair request, at full prices; but all other kinds are dull, and rather cheaper. In bacon very little is passing, at 1s. less money. Hams and lard are a dull inquiry.

WHEAT.—The demand for rum is steady, and prices are well supported. Proof Bengal has sold at 1s. 8d., and proof Demerara, 2s. per gallon. We have no change to notice in the value of either brandy or grain spirit.

METALS.—Scotch pig iron has moved off slowly, at 48s. 3d. cash, mixed numbers. Fine Straits tin has sold at £122 per ton. All other metals are dull.

HOPS.—There is very little business doing in any kind of hops, and prices are almost nominal. Mid and East Kent Pockets, 80s.; West Kent, 80s. to 100s.; Sussex, 90s. to 140s.; and yearling, 80s. to 100s. per cwt.

WOOL.—The public sales, at which about 50,000 bales will be offered, have commenced slowly, on easier terms.

COTTON.—Very little business is doing in this market, at the late prices.

HAY AND STRAW.—Meadow hay, £3 to £3½; clover ditto, £3 to £3½; and straw, £1. 0s. to £1. 18s. per load. Trade ditto, from 18s. to 160s. per ton.

GRAIN.—Wheat is dull, at 2s. per cwt. on the spot. Rape is quiet, at £10 10s. to £10s.; coconuts, 50s. to 52s. per palm; £16. spirits of turpentine 31s. to 32s.; sugar, 93s. 3d. per cwt.

TALLOW.—Our market is steady, at 56s. 9s. per cwt. for P.Y.C. on the spot. The stock is 79,910 casks, against 32,940 ditto in 1859. Rouleau, 3s. 10d. per cwt.

COALS.—Best house coal, 21s. to 21s. 6d.; seconds, 18s. to 19s. 6d.; Hartley's, 17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d.; and manufacturers', 17s. 6d. to 18s. per ton.

## LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 22.

BANKRUPTCY.—J. DUTTON, Walsall, Staffordshire, grocer.—J. NIXON, Loughborough, Leicestershire, draper.—J. W. HUNT, Cambridge, printer.—W. L. BELLINGHAM, Gresham-street, City, auctioneer.—J. T. MOORE, St. James's, Hertfordshire, licensed victualler.—J. CARRY, Tonbridge-wells, Kent, boot and shoe maker.—W. GREEN, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, anchor maker.—J. WESTBURY, Gloucester, innkeeper.—F. BROTHROTH, Middleborough, Yorkshire, innkeeper.—H. BARRETT, South Wingfield, Derbyshire, hay dealer.—W. N. WATSON, Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire, cooper.—T. FARBER, Manchester, cheese factor.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—D. A. and C. CRAWFORD, Milnforth, near Glasgow, agents.—J. GALT, Whiteshaw, Carlisle, factor.—W. L. BELLINGHAM, Gresham-street, City, auctioneer.—J. T. MOORE, St. James's, Hertfordshire, licensed victualler.—J. CARRY, Tonbridge-wells, Kent, boot and shoe maker.—W. GREEN, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, anchor maker.—J. WESTBURY, Gloucester, innkeeper.—F. BROTHROTH, Middleborough, Yorkshire, innkeeper.—H. BARRETT, South Wingfield, Derbyshire, hay dealer.—W. N. WATSON, Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire, cooper.—T. FARBER, Manchester, cheese factor.

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